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VOL. XVIII.—No. 452.

MARCH 5, 1859.

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CHARLES J. MURCH,

University Hall, Gordon-square,
February 11, 1859.

Secretary.

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THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, CASH ACCOUNT, and BALANCE SHEET, to 31st December last, as laid before the Members of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, at the General Meeting on Wednesday, 16th February, 1859, is now printed, and may be had on a written or personal application at the Society's Office, 30, King-street, Cheapside, E.C. To the Report and Accounts is appended a list of bonuses paid on the claims of the year.

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ARCHITECTS.—Notice is hereby given, that the Trustees appointed by SIR JOHN SOANE will meet at the Museum, No. 13, Lincoln's-in-fields, on THURSDAY, the 24th of March, at Three o'clock in the afternoon precisely, to distribute the DIVIDENDS which shall have accrued during the preceding Year from the sum of 5,000*l.* Reduced 3*l.* per Cent. Bank Annuities, invested by the late Sir John Soane, among Distressed Architects, and the Widows and Children of deceased Architects left in Distress or Distressed Circumstances.

Forms of application may be had at the Museum, and must be filled up, and delivered there on or before Monday, the 14th of March, after which day no application can be received.

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THE CRITIC IS REMOVED TO 19, Wellington-street North, Strand, W.C.

To which address all Communications, Advertisements, &c., should in future be sent.

DAY OF PUBLICATION.

TO accommodate the Country Trade, and to facilitate the transmission to the provinces, THE CRITIC, from and after the commencement of 1859, will be published at 12 o'clock noon of FRIDAY. All Communications, Advertisements, &c., must reach the office not later than 5 o'clock p.m. on THURSDAY, to insure attention in the current number.

CRITIC PORTRAIT GALLERY OF CELEBRITIES IN Literature, Science, and Art.

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No. 3, RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, in the CRITIC of Aug. 7, No. 423. No. 4, CHARLES DICKENS, in the CRITIC of September 4, No. 426.

No. 5, JAMES HANNA, in the CRITIC of October 2, No. 430. No. 6, CHARLES MACKAY, in the CRITIC of November 6, No. 433.

No. 7, WILLIAM HUNT, in the CRITIC of December 11, No. 440. No. 8, M. LE COMTE DE MONTALEMBERT, in the CRITIC of January 1, No. 443.

No. 9, JUDICE HALIBURTON, in the CRITIC of February 5, No. 448.

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The Portraits may also be obtained in the Monthly Parts of the CRITIC, on July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st, November 1st, December 1st, January 1st, and February 1st, price 1s. 6d. each, comprising also the entire Literature and Art of the time.

CRITIC Office, 19, Wellington-street North, Strand, W.C.

THE CRITIC.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1859.

MR. BOYES, the author of the pleasant volume on "Life and Books," lately reviewed in our columns, writes us a friendly note in acknowledgment of the favourable verdict pronounced thereupon. Unlike most authors, however, Mr. BOYES seems to hint rather than express a whimsical complaint that we have not abused him more: "I should perhaps on the whole prefer that the book should produce a warm discussion of my dogmas than silent submission to them as the incontrovertible axioms of a sage." Judging, however, from the spirit with which he replies to the few slight objections started in our review, we are disposed to think that a longer list of them might have drawn us into a very "warm discussion" indeed. Referring to a passage in the article, Mr. BOYES adds: "The construing TERENCE and hitting snipes, &c., were meant as instances in different kinds, and taken from the life. The man who could construe TERENCE better than VIRGIL was Dr. DEANE, Q.C., an old college friend of mine; and the person who could hit snipes better than partridges was our humble servant." Not much analogy between these "instances," as it appears to us. A man may have acquired some knack of hitting snipes, and do more execution among them than better general shots; but construing Latin is a matter, not of knack, but of knowledge; and if a man can really construe TERENCE better than VIRGIL, it can only be because he has selected the former writer as the subject of his special study. Thus there are persons who know SHAKSPEARE better than PALEY. But that is not because they are better English scholars, or worse: only because they have paid more attention to the dramatist than to the divine.

Mr. GILFILLAN is of opinion that the reviewer of the Duke of BUCKINGHAM's "Memoirs" was guilty of a "blunder," when he stated that "COBBETT took part against the QUEEN;" and adds, "Apart from the notoriety of the opposite, as every reader of COBBETT's *Register* for 1820 knows, the fact is that COBBETT was in the confidence of Queen CAROLINE, and actually wrote the famous letter from the QUEEN to the KING, which appeared in August, 1820, and made such a prodigious sensation. (Consult 'Selection from Cobbett's Political Works, by his sons, John and James,' Vol. VI., p. 32)." In reply to this the reviewer sends the passage in the "Memoirs," which served for a foundation to the remark. It is as follows, and occurs in the thin thread of narrative with which the noble Duke, his editor, or editress (as the case may be), has strung together the correspondence of which the volumes are made up:

Cobbett published a letter addressed to Wilberforce, made up of declamation and invective, in the style that then took the public taste. This composition is described as "very clever, but very mischievous, and full of falsehoods." He was attacked so frequently and with such violence by the Queen's partisans, that it forced him to exclaim, "What a lesson it is to a man not to set his heart on low popularity, when, after forty years' disinterested public service, I am believed to be a perfect rascal." (Vol. I. p. 39.)

COBBETT was notoriously a double dealer, and might very easily have been in Queen CAROLINE's confidence and have abused her publicly into the bargain. Otherwise, why should he have been attacked by the Queen's partisans, and why should he have uttered the Jeremiad about his unpopularity?

HENRY LORD BROUGHAM AND VAUX.

ANYTHING LIKE A FULL MEMOIR of this remarkable man would be almost tantamount to a history of the civilised world during more than half a century; for it may with truth be said that no great movement has taken place during that period for the advancement of civilisation and the good of mankind in which he has not nobly borne his part; and that no attempt has been made to infringe upon the rights of man or coerce the liberty of thought and speech, without the great, strong, earnest, and eloquent voice of HENRY BROUGHAM being uplifted to confuse the oppressor and to encourage the victim. This is no mere figure of speech. It is a fact stated in all the severity of unadorned truth. What would be the most hyperbolic flattery when applied to any other man, is nothing more than this one's due. The great difficulty we have to contend with in preparing this brief outline of his career, is not in seeking fuel for admiration or food for comment, but in compressing within a space suited to our convenience and that of our readers, the events of his most remarkable life.

HENRY BROUGHAM was born in St. Andrew's-square, Edinburgh, in September, 1778. He is consequently now in his eighty-first year. His father was a country gentleman, from Westmoreland, residing in Edinburgh, and who married Miss ELEANOR SYME, the daughter of a Scotch gentleman, and the niece of the historian, ROBERTSON. HENRY was the eldest son of this couple, who are not distinguished otherwise than for being the parents of such a son. It was in the High School that he received the rudiments of his education, and at the early age of fifteen he entered the Edinburgh University. Here his immense powers of acquisition and application of knowledge did not fail to render him speedily distinguished. Mathematics was at that time his favourite subject of study, and when scarcely eighteen he wrote a paper on "Light," which

contained such novel views, expressed so tersely and clearly, that it was judged worthy of being inscribed in the *Transactions of the Royal Society*, where it may be found in the volume for 1796. This inspired him to further efforts and the *Transactions* of 1797 and 1798 both bear witness to his youthful energy and industry: one volume in the form of another essay upon the laws of light, and the other containing a paper on geometry from the pen of the young *savant*. At this time it is recorded of BROUGHAM that he corresponded with many learned foreigners of distinction in the Latin language; and at the same time as he was prosecuting his classical studies and perfecting his acquaintance with the great writers of antiquity and masters of oratory, he studied the science of jurisprudence, the laws of his country, and prepared himself for that tremendous struggle with the world from which he has emerged so triumphantly. After graduating at the University he went abroad in the company of Lord STUART DE ROTHSAY, and visited Holland and Prussia; the only parts of the Continent then open to Englishmen. Upon his return, however, he entered the Scotch bar, and practised at it with much success until the year 1807. It was during this period of his career, namely, in 1802, that the *Edinburgh Review* was founded by JEFFREY, SYDNEY SMITH, HORNER, THOMAS BROWN, and the clique of students and barristers who rallied round CONSTABLE and BROUGHAM was not only one of those who suggested the undertaking, but for many years he took upon himself by far the larger share of its intellectual labour. Many an interesting particular respecting the foundation and early life of this great periodical is familiar to the readers of SYDNEY SMITH's "Memoirs." The name of BROUGHAM occurs in them not unseldom, and it is with an air of wonder, slightly tinged with envy, that the kindly, witty, but somewhat lazy divine used to regard the astonishing *vis* and endurance of labour exhibited by his friend and colleague. It is a current anecdote about the *Edinburgh*, that upon one occasion, BROUGHAM, being in want of money, wrote to CONSTABLE for a thousand pounds, coolly stating that he should soon clear it off by his writing in the *Edinburgh*, and that some time during the said process of "clearing," a number came out of which BROUGHAM had written every article but two. One of the papers contributed by BROUGHAM to this number (which may be found in Volume XVII.), was actually upon a subject so uninviting as "The Operation of Lithotomy."

Before he left Edinburgh, BROUGHAM married. Report says that it was a runaway match, and the lady was a Miss Eden. In 1807 he removed to London, receiving his introduction to the profession from the Scotch business in which he was engaged at the bar of the House of Lords. In a very short time he became very conspicuous as an advocate, and business flowed in. In 1810 he entered the House of Commons for the borough of Camelford, and attached himself at once to the Whig party. It was a stirring year for a man like BROUGHAM to enter the House; for then it was that the great question of Reform was beginning to be mooted: that the nation was petitioning, in a dissatisfied manner, against the misconduct of the war, and the burdens imposed on the people, whilst Sir FRANCIS BURDETT (pretending to be in the interest of the people) was striving to bring the House of Commons into contempt by his open defiance of it. Upon his entrance into Parliament, BROUGHAM interested himself greatly about the Slave question, and it was in a great degree through his labours that the mere declaration of abolition of 1810 ripened into the Emancipation Act of 1833. In 1812, Parliament was dissolved, and on offering himself at the new election as a candidate for Liverpool, he was defeated by Mr. CANNING. Four years afterwards he re-entered the House as member for Winchester, and during the eventful years that followed, his voice was often raised to protest against the policy of a government which, having acquired a military prestige by the success of our Continental wars, had deceived itself into the idea that it is consistent with the spirit of the English nation to be a military power, and that the best remedy for starvation is a troop of cavalry.

It was in 1820 that the great event took place which first brought Mr. BROUGHAM forward into that prominent place which enabled him to climb up to the very highest point which he or any other subject could have ambitioned. In 1820 CAROLINE of BRUNSWICK arrived in England to claim her rights as a queen and as a wife. BROUGHAM had been her counsel before this, and upon her arrival she nominated him her Attorney-General. His conduct of this trial, the bold and unshrinking front which he presented to GEORGE IV. and his courtiers, the eloquent speeches he made, and the partial success which crowned his efforts, are too well known to need recapitulation here. From that time BROUGHAM was ever in the eye of the public, and at last he had found a free scope for his energy and ambition. His triumphs both in Parliament and at the Bar were almost daily, certainly not to be numbered here. He kept his seat for Winchester for many years, and the fact of that being a patronage, or, as it is commonly called "rotten" borough, was the main reason why, during the Reform crisis in 1830, he exhibited no disinclination to preserve a few of those "avenues to merit." Some time afterwards he was returned for Knaresborough; and at the general election, after the death of GEORGE IV., he was returned for the county of York by a tremendous majority. This seat, however, he did not hold for many months; for on the 22nd of November, 1830, the Tories went out, and when the programme of Lord GREY's ministry appeared, it was found that BROUGHAM was Lord Chancellor of England. Exactly four years afterwards Sir

ROBERT PEEL came into power, and Lord BROUGHAM was naturally excluded from the government of the statesman whom he had dared to call "the parasite" of the Duke of WELLINGTON. Since that time Lord BROUGHAM has occupied his seat in the House of Lords, taking an important part in the legislative business of the House, and being one of the most constant and active members of its Court of Appeal.

We cannot pretend to give anything like a perfect list of all the works which have come from the press bearing the name of this Briareus of work (if we may be allowed the term) upon the title-page. The following, however, contains all that we have been able to collect:

1. An Inquiry into the Colonial Policy of the European Powers. 2 vols. London: Longmans. Edinburgh: Balfour, Constable. 1803. 8vo.
2. Speeches before a Committee of the House of Commons in opposition to a Bill for Incorporating certain Persons by the Name of the Gaslight and Coke Company. London: Strahan and Preston. 1809. Folio.
3. Speech on the 9th of April, 1816, upon the State of Agricultural Distresses. London: Longmans. 1816. 8vo.
4. The Speech of Henry Brougham in the House of Commons, March 13th, 1817, on the State of the Nation. London: Ridgway. 1817. 8vo.
5. A Letter to Sir S. Romilly, upon the Abuse of Charities. Eighth and ninth editions. London. 1818. 8vo.
6. A Vindication of the Inquiry into Charitable Abuses. [By Henry Brougham] London. 1819. 8vo.
7. Mr. Brougham's Speech in the House of Lords, Oct. 3 and 4, 1820 [in defence of the Queen]. London: T. Masters. 1820. 8vo.
8. Substance of the Argument before the Privy Council in support of the Queen Consort's Right to be Crowned. [By Henry Brougham] London: Longmans. 1821. 8vo.
9. Defence of Mr. Brougham's Bill on Free Grammar-schools. London: W. T. Clarke. 1821. 8vo.
10. Inaugural Discourse on being installed Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow. Glasgow: J. Smith and Son. 1825. 8vo.
11. Report of Speeches delivered in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, at the Dinner given in honour of Henry Brougham, Esq., together with Mr. Brougham's Address to the Students at his Installation to the office of Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow. Edinburgh: Stewart. 1825. 8vo.
12. Practical Observations upon the Education of the People. [This went through twenty editions.] London: Longmans. 1825. 8vo.
13. Opinions on Negro Slavery. London: Whitmore and Penn. 1826. 8vo.
14. Present State of the Law: Speech in the House of Commons, Feb. 7, 1828. London: Colburn. 1828. 8vo.
15. Reform. [The Speech delivered in the House of Peers, Dec. 2, 1830, upon the Introduction of his Bill to Reform the existing Legal Abuses of the Country.] London: Harding. [1830.] 8vo.
16. Speech on Reform in Chancery, delivered in the House of Lords, Feb. 22, 1831. London: Knight. 1831. 8vo.
17. The Lord Chancellor's Speech on Parliamentary Reform, in the House of Lords, Oct. 7, 1831. London: J. Ridgway. 1831. 8vo.
18. Speech on the Second Reading of the Reform Bill. London: J. Cochrane. 1831. 8vo.
19. The Speech of Lord Brougham in the House of Lords, Oct. 7, 1831, on the Second Reading of the English Reform Bill, &c. London: Harding. [1831.] 8vo.
20. Selections from the Speeches and Writings of Lord Brougham, with Memoir. London: Ridgway. 1832. 8vo.
21. An Answer to a Pamphlet entitled "A Reply to the Speech of Lord Brougham," with some remarks on Reform. London: Longman. 1832. 8vo.
22. Bulwer: a Letter to a late Cabinet Minister on the present Crisis, by Bulwer. To which is added a Letter from Lord Brougham to Mr. Bulwer. London: Saunders and Otley. 1834. 8vo.
23. Corrected Report of the Speech of the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, on moving the Second Reading of the Bill to amend the Poor-laws. London: J. Ridgway. 1834. 8vo.
24. Select Cases decided by Lord Brougham in the Court of Chancery in 1833-34. Edited from his Lordship's MS. Notes by C. P. Cooper. Vol. I. London: Sweet. 1835. 8vo.
25. Speeches upon Questions relating to Public Rights, &c. 4 vols. Edinburgh: Black. London: C. Knight. 1838. 8vo.
26. Correspondence between Lord Brougham and Mr. Clarkson, in T. Clarkson's Strictures on a Life of W. Wilberforce. London: 1838.
27. Historical Sketches of Statesmen. Third Series. London: C. Knight. 1839-45. 8vo.
28. A Letter on National Education. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black. London: Longmans. 1839. 8vo.
29. Lord Brougham's Answer to Lord Londonderry's Letter [to Lord Brougham relative to his character of Robert Marquis of Londonderry in the "Sketches of Statesmen"]. London: Ridgway. 1839. 8vo.
30. Lord Brougham's Reply to Lord John Russell's Letter to the Electors of Stroud on the Principles of the Reform Act. London: Ridgway. 1839. 8vo.
31. Lord Brougham's Speech in the House of Lords on moving for a Committee of the whole House on the Corn Laws. Second Edition. London: Ridgway. 1839. 8vo.
32. The Oration of Demosthenes upon the Crown. Translated by Lord Brougham. London: C. Knight. 1840. 8vo.
33. Paley on Natural Theology, with Notes by Lord Brougham. Knight. 1842.
34. Lord Brougham's Speech upon the Ashburton Treaty. London. 1843. 8vo.
35. Letters on Law Reform. London: Ridgway. 1843. 8vo.
36. Speech of Lord Brougham on the Criminal Code in the House of Lords, 13th May, 1844. London: Ridgway. 1844. 8vo.
37. Dialogues on Instinct, with Analytical View of the Researches on Fossil Osteology. London: C. Knight. 1844. 12mo.
38. Albert Lunel, or the Château of Languedoc. [By Lord Brougham.] London. 1844. 8vo.
39. Lord Brougham's Speech on Law Reform, May 19th, 1845. London: Ridgway. 1845. 8vo.
40. Voltaire et Rousseau, &c. London. 1845. 8vo.
41. Lives of Men of Letters and Science who flourished in the time of George III. 2 vols. London: C. Knight. 1845-6. 8vo.
42. Two Discourses on the Object, Pleasures, and Advantages of Science, &c. London: C. Knight. 1846. 12mo.
43. Letter to Lord Lyndhurst on Criminal Police and National Education. Second Edition. London: Ridgway. 1847. 8vo.

44. Speech in the House of Lords, May 12, 1848, on Legislation and the Law. London: Ridgway. 1848. 8vo.
45. Speech in the House of Lords on Italian and French Affairs. London: Ridgway. 1848. 8vo.
46. Letter to the Marquis of Lansdowne on the late Revolution in France. London: Ridgway. 1849. 8vo. (This went through five editions.)
47. Speech in the House of Lords, May 7th, 1849, on the Navigation Laws. London. 1849. 8vo.
48. Speech on Foreign Affairs in the House of Lords, 20 July, 1849. London: Ridgway. 1849. 8vo.
49. Inaugural Address on the Establishment of a Law School. London: Ridgway. 1850. 8vo.
50. A Letter to Lord Denman upon the Legislation of 1850, as regards the Amendment of the Law. London: Ridgway. 1850. 8vo.
51. Parties—Witnesses: Speech on the Law of Evidence Bill. London: Ridgway. 1851. 8vo.
52. Wellington Orations. The Speeches delivered on 30th August, 1839, at Dover, and 13th November, 1852 in the House of Lords. London. [1852.] 8vo.
53. Lord Brougham's Speeches in the House of Lords, 26th and 28th of July, 1853, on County Courts, &c. London: Ridgway. 1853. 8vo.
54. Speech on Criminal Law Procedure, 23rd March, 1855. London: Ridgway. 1855. 8vo.
55. Religious Liberty Bill: Lord Brougham's Speech, July 27th, 1855, &c. London: Ridgway. 1855. 8vo.
56. Lord Brougham's Speech upon the Slave Trade. London. 1855. 8vo.
57. Addresses to the Members of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution. [In the same series. Literary Addresses. 2nd series.] London: R. Griffin. 1855. 8vo.
58. Analytical View of Sir I. Newton's Principia. [By Lord Brougham and E. J. Routh.] London. 1855. 8vo.
59. Contributions to the *Edinburgh Review*. 3 vols. Glasgow and London: Griffin. 1856. 8vo.
60. Speech on the Immediate Emancipation of the Negro Apprentices. [Contained in a series entitled "British Eloquence. Political Orations." Sec. 2.] London: R. Griffin. 1857. 8vo.
61. Speech on Parliamentary Reform, August 5, 1857. London: Ridgway. 1857. 8vo.
62. Speech on the Property of Married Women. London: Ridgway. 1857. 8vo.
63. Inaugural Address [to the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, with a paper on] Railway Accidents. 1858. 8vo.

To this vast mass of recorded labour must be added contributions innumerable to most of the leading organs of public opinion in Europe. Not only has the *Edinburgh Review* received the constant aid of his pen; but there are few of the great periodicals and newspapers which have flourished during the past half century which have not drawn copiously from this astonishing spring of intellectual fertility. Many and many an article in the columns of the leading journal have even of late years been attributed (with what truth we know not) to Lord BROUGHAM. It is one of the most extraordinary qualities about this great man that his powers of mental production have ever been so inexhaustible that, however great the demand upon them, they have never been overtaxed. Even while doing one of the largest businesses as an advocate recorded in the history of the Bar, at the same time as he was taking a prominent place in the proceedings of the House of Commons, and there performing an amount of work which would have sufficed alone to prostrate men of average strength, BROUGHAM found time to spread himself as it were over the whole field of literature and of science; to dash off a political leader for a morning paper; a recondite criticism upon the existing state of the law and the necessity for reform; a profound yet brilliant analysis of some recently discovered truth in science; a clever dashing essay upon some matter of social improvement; and a sparkling, caustic review of a fashionable novel. No work seemed too great for him or ever to oppress him, and he has been known, in the very wantonness of his strength, to undertake tasks which common men might be proud to regard as the great achievement of their lives. We have heard (and the story has an air of *crème de la crème*) that one day as BROUGHAM was leaving the House of Lords he met a friend who was proudly escorting two very handsome young ladies. "Ah! Brougham," was his greeting, "I am sorry you are leaving; because my fair young friends had made up their minds to hear you address the House." "Then," retorted BROUGHAM, casting an eye of admiration upon his expectant audience, "they shall not be disappointed;" and forthwith he returned into his accustomed place among the Peers, whilst the ladies were escorted to the gallery. Lord MELBOURNE was then in office, and when the first pause in the proceedings occurred, up jumps BROUGHAM with a question upon some intricate matter of foreign policy. The poor Premier smiles amiably, but hopelessly; he is not acquainted with the facts; no notice has been given of the question; he is very sorry, but must inquire for information. This was all that BROUGHAM required. Once more he rises, but this time with that terrible frown upon his brow, and that rugged voice with which he knew so well how to crush an opponent. A philippic against the incapacity of the minister, the negligence with which public affairs were conducted, the shameful supineness and indifference manifested by the advisers of the Queen, was poured forth with all the rough, strong, rapid eloquence of which this man alone was capable. Lord MELBOURNE covered in his seat; the rumours of this great speech brought loungers from the Commons to listen to what seemed the deathblow of the ministry; Queen VICTORIA herself heard what was going on and trembled for her amiable minister. A leading article appeared in next morning's *Times*, treating the speech as something of the last importance: and it was only made after all to please a pair of pretty women in the gallery, who took it as they would any other tribute of homage to their beauty—a bouquet, a box at the opera, a whitebait dinner, or a new bonnet.

As the eye travels down the long list which we have printed above, can it not discern plainly the footprints of this great progress through a long and momentous life. At the age of twenty-five, we have him inquiring curiously into the Colonial policy of the European powers; not many years afterwards he is speaking before a Committee of the House of Commons in his practice as a successful barrister. To this succeeds in rapid succession his great triumphs and labours achieved in his place in the House of Commons itself; his advocacy of the suffering poor; his denunciations of those who plunder the fund of Charity; his ever-memorable speech in favour of the Slave. There are men alive now who speak of that masterpiece of oratory as the greatest and most touching effort of human influence they ever heard. Anon we have him appearing before the House of Lords in defence of a Queen, against her husband and his sovereign. Anon we have him going down to Glasgow to enjoy the quiet triumph of being installed Lord Rector of that university, and then back again to Parliament to agitate such questions as the education of the people; the reform of our representation; the reform of the law. Amid all these labours there was yet time for literary labours of no slight importance. Volume after volume teemed from the press, as if the author were nothing but an author and did nothing but write books as hard as he could for the very life. History, science, romance, that miscellaneous class of subjects which is commonly classed under the name of *belles lettres*—nothing came amiss to this insatiable mind. Besides all this he was presiding over all sorts of societies, and was the motive power of all conceivable undertakings. At Athenæums, and Mechanics' Institutes, and Literary Institutions, delivering addresses in which instruction came dressed up in the most attractive garb of eloquence. Presiding also over literary dinners, founding law schools, inaugurating railways. Not content with this, at one time he wished to multiply himself by two and become a French citizen. Finding this impossible, however, he contents himself with an occasional visit to Paris; where he takes the opportunity of reading a paper to the Academy of Sciences upon some abstruse point of

natural philosophy, of which all who listen are bound to admit that if the accent be a little strange and, to a Parisian ear, somewhat Gothic, the matter is indubitably good and the science profound.

Age seems to have no power to dim the lustre of Lord Brougham's intellect. A few years ago he was attacked by illness, and there was a rumour that nature required repose. As if to give the lie to the assertion, he has since that taken, as it were, a new lease of his youth, and has equalled, if not surpassed, the feats of what are usually the most vigorous days of a man. At an age which the Psalmist pronounced to be "labour and sorrow," and when most men that reach it lay down every burden but that of years, as they prepare to lay down life itself, the intellectual activity of Lord Brougham is undiminished. Still may he be seen in his place in Parliament, and he is not idle there. Not a debate occurs, scarcely a subject is mentioned within the walls of the House of Lords but this "Nestor of debate" will have his say upon it. And a powerful say it is too; always strong, energetic in manner, pitiless in the obstinacy with which everything is urged to its logical consequence, not uneldom withering in sarcasm, and occasionally blazing forth with a flame of eloquence which reminds such readers as are able to judge of HENRY BROUGHAM in his best days. Best days! Are not these his best? When was he ever more active for good than now? What scheme of reform in any part of our constitutional system lacks his countenance and aid? At what period of his life could he have delivered a more splendid piece of cultivated oratory than that with which he inaugurated the statue of Sir ISAAC NEWTON at Grantham the other day.

When we originated the scheme for these portraits and biographical sketches, it was our intention to restrict ourselves to the bare enumeration of the facts of each life, so far as they were ascertainable; and to avoid anything like criticism of their position and character. In speaking of Lord BROUGHAM, however, we have found it impossible to adhere to this rule; and the estimation in which he is universally held in England by all classes and creeds of persons is so high and so notorious, that it would be folly to affect to ignore it.

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

MR. CLAYTON ON THE MERRY MONARCH.

Personal Memoirs of Charles II., with Sketches of his Court and Times.
By J. W. CLAYTON, Esq. 2 vols. London: Charles J. Skeet.

IT WOULD CERTAINLY seem as late in the day for any "personal memoirs" of King Charles II. to appear, as for any historiographer who combined malice with industry to write "scandal about Queen Elizabeth." What have we done, wanderers in the desert of History, and thirsters for the wells that gladden Truth's oasis, ardently desiring information respecting our less known sovereigns—say Canute, say Edward the Confessor, say Alfred—that Mr. Clayton should launch at our heads these two volumes of personal memoirs of a king whose acts and deeds are as patent and notorious as the Great Plague or the Great Fire, whose portraiture and character are as familiar to us as the Monument or Temple Bar. Not long since we attended a lecture on the life and works of Alexander Pope, delivered at a suburban institution, and our *amour propre* was certainly a little wounded when we heard the lecturer gravely assure his audience that the translator of the "Iliad" was very little known to the present generation, and that the dust accumulated on the volumes of his works in the libraries was very seldom disturbed. The assumption that no authentic memorial of Charles II. has hitherto been written is equally as galling. Mr. J. W. Clayton, we see by his title page, is the author of "Ubique" and "Letters from the Nile." Has he been residing in the Pyramid of Cheops, or in the interior of Nubia, this last quarter of a century, to be ignorant that we have been long in possession of good and comparatively cheap editions of certain memoirs of the court of Charles II., amply exemplified in the life of the Chevalier de Grammont written by his friend and admirer, Anthony Hamilton. Are the *bas verts* and the Belle Stuart, the Shrewsbury duel, and the maid of honour's frisk with the oranges to count for nothing? Is the story of the Boscobel and Royal Oak episode of the King's escape from Worcester, dictated by himself, and published in the appendix to Mr. Bohn's excellent edition of De Grammont to be reckoned nought? Had Mr. John Evelyn, of Deptford, author of the "Sylva Sylvarum," and letter of lodgings to Czar Peter, nothing to say concerning the scandalous monarch who a few days before his death lolled in the "glorious gallery" at Whitehall, surrounded by his mistresses and his profligate courtiers, gambling, and listening to the French boy singing love-songs, and unconscious that so soon all was to be in the dust? Is there no history of the Great Rebellion, the work of Lord Clarendon? are there no Carlyle-Cromwellian revelations? Did not Gilbert Burnet write some very foolish but very amusing memoirs of his own times? and were not those times the times of Charles and James? And garrulous Aubrey; and copious yet concise Defoe; and, towards the close of Charles's reign, Barillon and Narcissus Luttrell? Did they write on papyrus which the rats have devoured, or from which the ink has been expressed? Have we no

graphic memoranda from Mrs. Hutchinson, no admirable letters from Lady Russell, a chastened, Christian Seigné? Does not the Museum library positively teem with pamphlets, libels, gazettes, and fly-sheets bearing on the Civil Wars, the Commonwealth, and the Restoration, from the innumerable *Mercuries* and *Intelligencers* published at Court and in the rival camps, to the "Lord-have-mercy-upon-us" broadsides, with the black bordering of the Plague time? The epoch has been as profusely illustrated as the novel of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." We have had it *à toute sauce*, roasted, boiled, and stewed, *ou naturel*, and *à la maître d'hôtel*. "Woodstock," and "Peveril of the Peak" are Sir Walter Scott's contributions to the *menu*; the author or authoress of "Whitefriars"—that literary Mrs. Harris—has added a piquant side-dish in the guise of a novel; Wycherley, D'Urfey, Davenant, Sedley, and Tom Brown have given us vivid photographs of the "Town Life of the Restoration;" and Dryden's "Annus Mirabilis," "Medal," and "Hind and Panther," together with his gross but admirably witty comedy of "Limberham"—we need not speak of "Mac Flecknoe," and the imitations of Juvenal—"coach us up," to use the middle-class examination term, on the literature, the polemics, the vices, and the political squabbles of the days of "Absalom and Achitophel." And, finally, may we ask Mr. J. W. Clayton, if he be at all aware of the existence of one Samuel Pepys, whilom Clerk of the Acts to the Admiralty, composer of madrigals, *soupirant* after the naughty Knipp, friend of Penn, *protégé* of Sandwich, and keeper in short-hand of that unrivalled and inimitable diary, which, had its records but extended over twenty years instead of five, would, we are persuaded, have solved many of the historic doubts that yet puzzle us—as to who cut King Charles I.'s head off; when Charles II. first turned Papist, and whether the papers in favour of the Catholic doctrine found in his strong-box after his demise, and published by James, were genuine or forgeries; what became of the money voted for the "Martyr's" monument; who murdered Sir Edmundbury Godfrey; who first put the notion of the Popish plot into the lying head of Titus Oates; and whether there was really any malice at work in the causes of the dreadful conflagration which was so nearly making us say of London—*Fuit*? If Mr. Clayton in his "personal memoirs" could throw any light upon these dark historical points, we should have little reason to take exception to his labours, but his contributions to the history of a reign as interesting for its picturesque aspect as for its political importance are, so far as novelty is concerned, positively *nil*. As a personal memoir of the "merry monarch" his two volumes are neither so amusing nor so valuable as Mr. Peter Cunningham's brochure of the "Story of Nell Gwynn and the Sayings of King Charles II."

"There is good in everything," says the moralist. On this assumption there is an appreciable amount of good in being on the best personal terms with oneself, and in imagining when one is a fly perched on an axle-box, that it is due to one's own effort that the chariot-wheels revolve. Let us give an extract from Mr. Clayton's preface, as an amusing specimen of his state of beatified self-satisfaction:

Encouraged [he says] by the great success of his former Works [with a large *W bien entendu*—the results of his experience in other lands—which he deemed might serve to amuse an idle hour, the author has been induced to resume his pen. But he decided to pursue a very different path of literature. After due reflection, he considered that history presented a very wide and fertile field, worthy of the contemplation, not only of the biographer, but also of every intelligent being who has any desire to know what has occurred in past ages, and more especially as regards the memorable events which have taken place in his own country. . . . Of all the monarchs who have occupied the English throne there is, perhaps, no other whose career presents so striking a series of wonderful vicissitudes and romantic adventures as that of Charles II.; and it is a singular fact, that while we have abundance of memoirs of most of our other sovereigns, there exists no separate modern work relative to him. It is hoped, therefore, that the present one will, to some extent, fill up a chasm in the history of England.

This is not fustian; it is calimanco. Yes; it is certain that Mr. Clayton must have resided a long time in a pyramid, bemusing himself with hieroglyphics, catching scarabæi, stuffing ibises, or dissecting mummies, ignorant meanwhile that the world had for some centuries past acknowledged that history presents "a very wide and fertile field," worthy "of the contemplation, not only of the biographer, but of every intelligent being." As regards filling up "a chasm in the history of England," it is good to be Marcus Curtius, and leap, all armed, into a gulf which immediately closes; but some ridicule attaches to the adventurous spirit mounted on a broken-kneed donkey, who jumps into a hole which doesn't close. And, moreover, in the case of Charles II., the area of the Forum is pretty compactly filled up.

We do not wish to detract from Mr. Clayton's merits. He has displayed very considerable industry in his works, and has read a great many books, having drawn largely from Clarendon, Rushworth, Franklyn, Weldon, the Harleian MSS., the Memoirs of Henrietta-Maria, Whitelocke's Memorials, Brodie, Baillie, Burnet, Carte, Herbert, the Sydney Papers, Warwick's Memoirs, the Lansdowne MSS., the Memoirs of Mlle. de Montpensier, the Ormonde Papers, Pepys, Thurloe, Lord Somers's Tracts, the Memoirs of Lady Fanshawe, Blencowe's Diary, Sir William Temple, the Stuart Papers, the Lords' Journals, Miss Strickland's "Queens of England," and Jesse's "Court of the Stuarts." Nay, Mr. Clayton even goes so far as to quote that eminent historical authority, Mr. Benjamin Webster, who, the historian tells us, in an address at the closing of the Adelphi Theatre in June last year, observed that, on the very spot where his theatre was erected, formerly stood the roadside farmhouse of Nell Gwynne. Mr. Clayton might have added that one of the recommendations a few years since, to induce the public to frequent a *table d'hôte* at the tavern established under Mr. Webster's auspices next door to the theatre was a printed advertisement of the injunction not to let "poor Nelly starve." It will be seen from the foregoing that our author fished a good many buckets from the well of information extant anent the merry monarch and his times; it is sad, however, to reflect that with all this affluence of historic research one little paragraph of antiquated gossip from Pepys, one little scandalous anecdote from Anthony Hamilton, one little passage from the "State of Manners" chapter of Lord Macaulay's History, are worth all the crude and undigested bookmaking of these 800 pages.

We are rather tender as to quoting from the body of Mr. Clayton's work for the same reasons that might occur to a gentleman about providing himself with a false *râtelier*: our readers might entertain the same objection to dead men's language as the dental patient might have to filling his mouth with dead men's teeth. The whole account of Charles's death we are nearly certain to have read before, *verbatim et literatim*, and the following passage, which we take at random, will be found almost word for word in the school abridgment of Goldsmith's "History of England." Mr. Clayton discourses of the Popish Plot:

Oates asserted before the Council that he was an agent for carrying on the designs of the Jesuits, not only in England, but also in France and Spain, where Don John had admitted him to his presence, and where he had seen money told out for Sir George Wakeman to poison the king. When his Majesty asked "what sort of a man Don John was?" he said, "that he was tall, lean, and black," whereas both the King and Duke knew him to be short, fat, and well complexioned. When Oates was afterwards blamed by Kirby for so gross a blunder, he replied, by way of excuse, that "he might as well give a wrong description of a man he had never seen in his life."

If this is the way in which "personal memoirs" are to be written, we fancy that we must give the palm to Mr. Clayton over those modern French autobiographers who, in twenty volumes or so, profess to give the memoirs of their lives and times, by publishing the letters written to them by other people. In "personal memoirs," in which the austerity and simplicity of history are not looked for, we might reasonably expect some admixture of intimate anecdote, some attempt, however humble, at graphic delineation of the manners of the age. Let us see how Mr. Clayton disposes of Colonel Blood's attempt to steal the crown:

Soon after this Blood conceived the idea of carrying off the Crown Jewels from the Tower, in which he nearly succeeded, having bound and wounded Edwards, the keeper of the Jewel Office. He then contrived to make off with his rich booty, when he was overtaken and arrested, with some of his associates. On being questioned he refused to name his accomplices, affirming that "the fear of death should never engage him either to deny guilt or betray a friend."

Mr. Clayton proceeds, at some length, to narrate the circumstances of Blood's examination before the King, and the cock-and-bull story told by that egregious and most impudent rascal and ruffian to Charles, of his having formed a plot to assassinate him, with a "loaded carbine," as he went to bathe at Battersea, "but that he

had been restrained, while standing among the reeds by the river, with an 'awe of Majesty.'" There is no doubt that the profound cynicism and unblushing mendacity of this scoundrel soldado tickled the King mightily, who not only pardoned him, but gave him an estate of 500*l.* a year in Ireland, besides countenance and encouragement near his own person. But all this is a very old story; and of the crown-stealing adventure Mr. Clayton, as will have been seen, makes nothing. He has nothing to say about Blood's ingenious subterfuges, the false canonicals, the feint of nose-bleeding, the pretended country cousins of old Edwards wanting to see the lions in the Tower, the hoops of the crown flattened, and, with the sceptre, crammed into a bag, while one of the great rubies rolled on Tower-green. Blood's attempt to steal the crown was never equalled as a "put-up robbery" till the great gold felony of the railway guards in the Folkestone trains. Personal memoirs, quotha! In an unpretending little volume which can be purchased at a bookstall for ninepence, and called the "Lives of Robbers and Highwaymen," Mr. Clayton (and our readers) will find an account of Blood's attempt from a contemporary narrative, so minutely graphic and full of *couleur locale* as to make his present meagre notice almost an impertinence.

It is difficult to tell what purpose the present volumes will serve. They are too diffuse for an historical handbook; they contain no new matter, no shrewd observation; and will be as useless as a work of reference as an aid to reflection. And, moreover, their publication, in this guise at least, was not needed. We are very much beholden to Mr. Clayton for the trouble he has taken; and we have no doubt that after the retirement of the "Nile," and "Ubique," his copious course of Restoration reading may be very conducive to his own mental improvement. But the educated public know all about King Charles II. But for the brilliancy of the style, and the unrivalled power of word-painting possessed by Lord Macaulay, the public would have grumbled at the infliction of so many volumes from that great writer, minutely describing the transactions in the next reign of a period which has had such historians as Hume and Lyttelton, Lingard and Charles James Fox. And even Lord Macaulay, one on whom the hacknied eulogium can be best bestowed, *Nullum in tetigit quod non ornavit*. The novelists, the dramatists, the *genre* painters of the age have King Charles at their fingers' ends. The rawboned, ungainly lad who fled to Jersey, who was bored by the Scotch divines, and was vanquished at Worcester, who hid in the oak, and was protected by the Penderills, till, after manifold accidents by flood and field, sleeping in barns and disguising himself in female attire, he got away to France from the little fishing place near Brighthelmstone; the royal wanderer, elbowed out of Holland, entertained at Cologne by the charity of a widow; desperately poor, writing to the Queen of Bohemia to send him a "little fiddler" and prick down "corantos" for him; and, when the news of his restoration to the crown came, finding no pleasure half so great as in contemplating the money sent him by the parliament, and calling upon his courtiers to come and look at the broad pieces as they lay glittering in a valise;—all know this Charles Stuart by heart. As the restored King, the "merry monarch," the paramour of Lucy Waters (whom Mr. Clayton miscalls "Walter"), Barbara Villiers, Louise de la Querouaille, Lady Shannon, Eleanor Gwynne, Mary Davies, and Catherine Pegg; and the illegitimate sire of the Dukes of Monmouth, Richmond, Southampton, Grafton, St. Albans, and Northumberland, the Earl of Plymouth, the Countesses of Sussex, Lichfield, Derwentwater, and Yarmouth, of James Beaulieu, of Barbara the nun of Pontoise, and a daughter by Mrs. Pegg, who died young, he is familiar to us all. Yes; we know—and Burke and DeBrett's Peerages, and the Pension List, have reason to know this King very well. He deluged the *libro d'oro* of English nobility with base blood. The descendants of his lemans sit, at this day, in the great councils of the nation, and are bidden to the Queen's feasts. His proper sceptre would have been a bar sinister, and in his profligate philo-progenitiveness he was a humble prototype of Augustus of Saxony, the "physically strong," as Mr. Carlyle calls him, with his three hundred and odd by-blows. It will be, indeed, very long before the English people forget Charles II., the unprincipled libertine, in whose reign the Dutch ascended the Medway, Dunkirk was sold, and an English monarch became a pensioner of France. A strange history-portrait it is of this King Lazarillo de Tormes, cynical, impudent, witty, and worthless; boasting that, if not a father to his people, he was, at least, "the father of a great many of them;" the swarthy, hard-favoured man, in the black velvet suit and periwig, striding along the Mall with his little spaniels after him, feeding the ducks in Rosamond's pond, or tarrying to chat with his courtesans as they hung, all laced and painted, like Jezebel, from the balconies overlooking the park; touching children for the evil, and laughing at the credulity that attached virtue to the impress of his polluted hand; interrupting the debates of the House of Lords by standing with his back to the fire, and cracking jokes with a ring of courtiers around him; clapping a tipsy Lord Mayor on the back when he dined at Guildhall, and telling him that "he who was drunk was as great as a king;" wasting his substance among harlots, and panders, and French mummies, and common cheats; and dying at last, quite insolvent in purse, quite bankrupt in reputation, but, for some strange winning qualities he had, and which, in our sterner retrospect, when centuries have passed by, we ignore—beloved by his people to the last. All England burst out weeping when this graceless man died. He was notoriously dishonest, dissolute, and despotic; yet the subjects loved him. Those who would even now gloss over his vices fondly recall that on his death-bed he begged his wife's forgiveness for his innu-

merable infidelities, and evinced as much solicitude for the welfare of a lewd woman as for that of his own soul. There had been a touch of the King and of the Man in some of the acts of his life. During the Plague and the Fire he nobly exerted himself in the succour of his people; he was always accessible; he was liberal, and sometimes generous, sometimes—by fits and starts—magnanimous and just; he did not, after the first outburst of the Royalist vendetta in 1661, press the proscription against the Regicides with any marked thirst for blood; and he was just as forgiving of injury as he was ungrateful for service rendered. He had a sister who was Queen of Bohemia, and if he had been king of that dubious region instead of the realm he so misgoverned, England would not, from 1660 to 1685, have fallen so low among the nations. A thorough Bohemian was Charles II., King of England, in the modern acceptation of the term: a clever, unreliable, humorous scamp, for ever saying good things and doing bad ones; who would deceive a nation with as much *bonhomie* as he would bilk a tavern-keeper; who, with great natural parts, was a slave to self-indulgence and indolence; whose munificence consisted in sharing among the companions of his debaucheries the proceeds of accommodation bills for which he never paid the discounts; and who had occasionally brief fits of repentance as transient as they were unfruitful. There are certain dishes in French bills of fare which the gourmand tastes once, for curiosity's sake, but, from their intolerable nastiness, never tries again. We have been favoured since the Conquest with a great variety of kings, more or less distasteful to the national stomach; but there are three—Henry VIII., George IV., and Charles II.—whose repetition are simply impossible. Sooner than they would endure a *rechauffé* of such repulsive royalties, this nation, we opine, would elect a course of Spartan black broth with the usual republican concomitants.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD BY OROSIUS.

King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon Version of the History of the World, by Orosius. Edited and Translated by the Rev. JOSEPH BOSWORTH, D.D. London: Longman and Co.

EPHEMERAL as much of our modern literature undoubtedly is, we are not yet without some hardy and industrious authors, who work *con amore*, for posterity rather than for pay. As we owe an undying debt of gratitude to men of the past for what they have left for our behoof, produced sometimes amid the most distressing want, or the equally distressing apathy by which they were surrounded, so may our children's children live to thank some few men of the present day for "the heroic toil of the student," in clearing their path to study. Dr. Bosworth we take to be one of those scholars who will be respectfully remembered—one of the few who has laboured long and well in the somewhat neglected, but deeply interesting study of the ancient Anglo-Saxon race. That race we profess to deeply venerate; whose praises form the theme of our orators; but whose works are unread, almost unknown; and whose name serves as a clap-net for public speakers who really know more about the Cherokees.

For more than eight hundred years the works of our great ancestors were neglected. Alfred the Great was our hero, to be evoked whenever necessary, but not to be known by his written works. Slowly and toilsomely the few scholars of the Saxon tongue plodded on, unaided even by our rich Universities, lavish over expenditure in any "dead language," turning a deaf ear to the origin of that which they called their own. Dr. Bosworth's preface to his book, giving the history of the various manuscripts of Orosius, and the men who have at different times transcribed it, would make a new chapter for Disraeli's "Curiosities of Literature," and add a few new facts to the same writer's "Calamities of Authors."

In all history, and more particularly in that of his own era, there is no nobler kingly name than that of our Saxon Alfred. To him belonged the rare gift of scholarship, and a mind enlarged and mellowed by knowledge of books and men. His greatness was that of a noble nature made nobler by many severe experiences; and the greater from never overstepping the bounds of Christian humility. Sweet to him were the uses of adversity, for the lessons taught were wholesome to his soul. He never forgot the scholar in the king; and, when in the lonely night stolen from rest, and suffering from illness, he laboured in his self-imposed literary toils, translating what he felt most useful for his Saxon subjects to know of the learned men who wrote in other tongues, it was with no self-gratulation or demand for sycophantic applause that he sent his labours forth to others. There is something peculiarly touching in the *naïve* apology the royal scribe makes for his own shortcomings in his translation of Boethius, made amid "manifold occupations which often busied him in mind and body;" therefore "he prays, and for God's name implores, each one who lists to read this book, that he would pray for him, and not blame him if he more rightly understand it than he could."

Among the varied translations of the learned King, that of Orosius holds an important place. In our time, of course, its chief value is retrospective, as showing what the knowledge of geography was in Alfred's days. Orosius was a learned Spaniard, a friend of the African Bishop St. Augustine, who induced him to write this "abridgment of universal history upon Christian principles to show the real origin of the misery of the world; hence the work was entitled '*De Miseria Mundi*.'" So says Dr. Bosworth, who adds: "General history, it must be confessed, is little else than a narrative of the follies, crimes,

and miseries of men. This was so evident that heathen writers adduced it as an argument against revelation, asserting that Christianity was the cause of the increased misery of the world." The labours of Orosius, which consist of a brief history of the world compiled from the older historians, Herodotus, Polybius, Livy, and Tacitus, and brought down to A.D. 416, was held in high esteem by the learned of the Saxon era, and for the subsequent six or seven hundred years. Dr. Bosworth says:

Though much may be said in favour of Orosius, it is not his reputation as an historian, or the propriety of his Latin style, that claim our regard, so much as the fact that he was the popular historian whom our intellectual and energetic Alfred selected for translating into his vernacular Anglo-Saxon, with the view of presenting to his people the best historical knowledge of his day. It is the clear style of Alfred, and the additional information that he imparts in a supplementary sentence or clause, which interest us, as given from his own personal knowledge; such, for instance, as when speaking of the Romans fording the Thames, Alfred points out the exact place, by stating that it was at Wallingford. . . . These important additions and separate essays are very interesting as the composition of Alfred. One of the longest of these is his description of Europe and the voyages of Ohthere and Wulfstan, subsequently mentioned.

In translating the book the King did not slavishly adhere to his author; he exercised his judgment in omitting what he deemed of little importance, sometimes expanding a thought, or illustrating a fact by much additional knowledge. Dr. Bosworth has very clearly detailed what the King did in this way:

In the first book especially, Alfred introduced much new matter and added considerably to the geography of Europe. These geographical additions prove that he had recourse to original sources for information. He then left his author and stated, from the best authorities of his age, all the particulars of Europe that he could collect, filling up the chasm between the time of Orosius, the commencement of the fifth century, and his own, the end of the ninth century. This is the only geography of Europe written by a contemporary, and giving the position of the Germanic nations, so early as the ninth century. Besides this geography of Europe, composed by Alfred, the King inserts the very interesting voyages of Ohthere a Norwegian navigator and of Wulfstan. Ohthere, "wishing to search out how far the land lay due north, or whether any man dwelt to the north," sailed by the coast of Norway round the North Cape into the White Sea, and afterwards into the Baltic. Wulfstan's voyage was confined to the Baltic. These voyages were written by the King, from the relation of these intrepid navigators; for, in the narration, Wulfstan uses a pronoun of the first person plural. The simplicity of the narration bears the impress of truth, the former beginning thus: "Ohthere told his lord, King Alfred, that he dwelt northmost of all the northmen." Ohthere was a man of great wealth, and his strict adherence to truth in his narrative may be concluded from his refusing to vouch for anything of which he could not bear personal testimony. He says: "The Biarmians told him many stories both about their own land and about the countries which were around them; but he knew not what was true, because he did not see it himself." These important additions and separate essays of King Alfred are very interesting as his original composition, and valuable because they contain information relative to the geography of Europe not otherwise to be obtained, and because they are authentic pictures of the manners and of the political condition of a great part of the north in the ninth century.

Ohthere was a Norwegian nobleman of great wealth and influence living in the district known as Halgoland; he was rich "in those possessions in which their wealth consist, that is in the wilder animals; he had, moreover, when he came to the King, 600 tame deer of his own breeding." They were rein-deer, six of them very valuable, being used as decoys to take the wild deer. He had few other domestic animals, though "he was among the first men in the land," his farming stock consisted of twenty horned cattle, and as many sheep and swine, "and the little that he ploughed he ploughed with horses." His chief revenues were the tribute of skins, feathers, whalebone, and ship-ropes formed of whale and seal skins, paid by the Finns, and with which he made trading voyages. The nature of the information Wulfstan the Dane gave Alfred, may be gathered from the following extract, describing the funeral customs of the Estonians, a race of Finns who dwelt on the shores of the Baltic to the east of the Vistula, the Osterlings of the present day:

There is also a custom with the Estonians, that when a man is dead, he lies, in his house, unburnt with his kindred and friends a month,—sometimes two; and the king and other men men of high rank, so much longer according to their wealth, remain unburnt sometimes half a year; and lie above ground in their houses. All the while the body is within, there must be drinking and sports to the day on which he is burned. Then, the same day, when they wish to bear him to the pile, they divide his property which is left after the drinking and sports, into five or six parts, sometimes into more, as the amount of his property may be. Then, they lay the largest part of it within one mile from the town, then another, then the third, till it is all laid, within the one mile; and the least part shall be nearest the town in which the dead man lies. All the men, who have the swiftest horses in the land, shall then be assembled, about five or six miles from the property. Then they all run towards the property; and the man, who has the swiftest horse, comes to the first and the largest part, and so each after the other, till it is all taken: and he takes the least part, who runs to the property nearest the town. Then each rides away with the property, and may keep it all; and, therefore, swift horses are there uncommonly dear. When his property is thus all spent, then they carry him out, and burn him with his weapons and clothes. Most commonly they spend all his wealth, with the long lying of the dead within, and what they lay in the way, which the strangers run for and take away.

We seek in vain elsewhere for the curious knowledge of these old customs recorded by Alfred from the lips of the voyagers who frequented his court. It is brief, too brief for modern curiosity, which would gladly

"—call him up who left half told,
The story of Cambuscan bold."

If we could cross-examine these old seamen now, how valuable would their words be! Modern writers would have made a volume where Alfred made a page.

We must give one specimen of the narrative of Orosius; it is the

wind-up of his history, and the great event of his own time—the sacking of Rome by Alaric that he thus describes, which happened in the year when he commenced writing his history :

One thousand one hundred and sixty-four years after the building of Rome [Orosius and Alfred, A.D. 411; Clinton 410], God showed his mercy to the Romans, when he allowed their misdeeds to be avenged, and yet it was done by Alaric, the most Christian and the mildest of kings. He sacked Rome with so little violence that he ordered no one should be slain, and that nothing should be taken away or injured that was in the churches. Soon after that, on the third day, they went out of the city of their own accord; so there was not a single house burnt by their order.

We have already stated the great end Orosius had in view in his compilation. His way of treating the experiences of the past will be best understood by his comment on this great event :

"Even now, it may shame you Romans," said Orosius, "that ye should have had so mean a thought for fear of one man, and for one man's sacrificing, as when ye said that the heathen times were better than the Christian, and also, that it were better for yourselves to forsake Christianity, and take to the heathen customs which your elders formerly followed. Ye may also think how worthless he afterwards was in his sacrifices and his idolatry, in which he lived, when ye had him bound and then treated him as ye would, and all his army, which, as ye yourselves said, was two hundred thousand, yet not one of you was wounded."

In this Alaric "the Goth" contrasted most favourably with the "civilised" Roman; for it was the custom of the latter people in taking a city to slaughter without mercy, or sell into captivity, the whole of its inhabitants.

We have now only to speak of Dr. Bosworth's labour in giving us the true text and literal translation. His simple detail of his drudgery is not very fascinating certainly to any who might wish to rival him. He truly says : "None but those who have been engaged in a similar work can imagine the unceasing care and the immense labour required in collating MSS. and in writing out the various readings with accuracy. Had I anticipated that this part of the work would have consumed so much time, I should never have ventured to undertake it." Not content with his own labour, three other scholars collated the text with the original MSS. to insure accuracy, and that no letter should be overlooked "every accent was carefully marked," and ultimately the settled text was most carefully examined for the fourth time ere it passed to the press. The historic introduction and the notes are another heavy labour, but are very necessary to the classification of the text, which is further illustrated by an essay by R. T. Hampson, Esq., on the geography of the book. Maps of Europe as then understood, and some excellent fac-similes of the MSS. used by Dr. Bosworth, are included in the volume.

What remains to be said of such a laborious and honest work? Criticism resolves itself into analysis. We can but assure Dr. Bosworth of the gratitude of all scholars, and award him as much as lies in us of that praise he has so well earned.

POEMS AND POETS.

Poetical Sketches of Some of the Remarkable Events in the History of Modern Europe. London: Longman and Co.

Holy Places, and other Poems. By REBECCA HEY. London: Hatchard and Co.

Linda: a Metrical Romance. By JANE C. SIMPSON. London: Hall, Virtue, and Co.

Lines for the Gentle and Loving. By THOMAS MAC KELLAR. London: Trübner and Co.

Spray. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.

"POETICAL SKETCHES of Some of the Remarkable Events in the History of Modern Europe," as a title, may stand for anything but what it is intended to convey. We have here three dramas which have the merit of being constructive, instead of a rough draught which the word "sketch" properly implies. If these dramas are intended for the stage, the author would do well to curtail some of the lengthy speeches; or if exclusively for the closet, many expressions would repay the process of elevation and enrichment. Still the writer of such dramas, whoever he may be, has established the right to speak again, and to be heard when he speaks. Far from perfection as are these so-called "Sketches"—not quite up to the thrill of intensity, which, in our opinion, is a high element in the drama, though Schlegel does not place it as the highest—yet they embody so much interest that we have read them *once*. This may be taken as a meed of praise when it is remembered that there are not ten names in English literature whose dramas can be read twice, and only one name capable of winning us back again and again with new delight to feed on old pastures. This author is at all times familiar enough, that is to say, he does not make common men talk like kings, nor kings converse as if they were not men, but we do not like familiarity to begin or end in hackneyed ideas. There are certain truths so broadcast over the world that it seems like a waste of time, if not an evidence of weakness, to endeavour to disseminate them further. Such a passage as this is as old as the hills :

And this :

For in great revolutions time is all.

And when did persecution in the name
Of true religion, ever lead to good?

But the repetition of an age-truth is even less bearable when it turns up in an aged form also. Something like this must be known to our readers :

Our pleasant vices are made scourges still
To hunt us to destruction.

These may be considered trivial objections, and so they would be if we were considering the case of a very ordinary poet; but the author of these "Sketches" is not so. He has read history with some diligence; he has seized on those points in which ordinary life culminates into the dramatic; his style, though not brilliant or even bold, has a substantiality out of which effective dramas may spring. To such a man nothing is trivial which stands in the way of freedom of manner or independence of thought.

Chaste, sweet, and musical are the poems entitled "Holy Places," by Rebecca Hey. There is a spirit of natural poetry in every throb of her muse, and one can hardly rise from a perusal of this little volume without having imbibed pleasure and instruction.

"Linda," by Jane C. Simpson (some of our readers may know the lady under the *nom de plume* of "Gertrude"), is told with considerable effect. It requires some courage in a reader to wade through those lengthy and constantly recurring currents of rhyme which, in modern times, we understand by the term "metrical romances." Thus, some really fine glimpses of poetry are often missed from the known wearisomeness of the journey before such glimpses can be obtained. It is unprofitable work to wander over a desert in search of a flower, and perhaps there have been more deserts and fewer flowers produced by a slavish imitation of Scott and Byron than from any other cause. There is less aridity in this poem, "Linda," than is usually found in works of a similar class. Compositions of this class are apt to deceive any but an experienced author, because in them grace of style seems to be the primary, and power of thought the secondary consideration. Metrical romances are to the higher branches of composition what a street acrobat now is compared with a gladiator of old Rome. Here you behold liteness, often produced by the sacrifice of health; there the very embodiment of manliness, power, and confidence. We may say thus much, and say what is true, that as a metrical romance, "Linda" does not sink to the usual vapoury attenuation. Against this the unquestionable taste of the authoress was a safe guarantee. The idea of the poem itself belongs to the old stock. "Linda" has sisters who are very comely, but "Linda" is plain. Of course there is enough to say about beauty and genius; for, by a very proper arrangement, where there is beauty there is no genius, and where genius no beauty. "Linda," in fact, is a sort of companion picture to "Jane Eyre."

Mr. Thomas MacKellar has adopted a title, "Lines for the Gentle and Loving," which places us in a doubtful position. If we reject his book it may be said that we are neither gentle and loving, and therefore the "Lines" were never intended for us. Be it so; but Mr. MacKellar intends his book for the public, and the public have had more than enough of such books. Mr. MacKellar is a rhymist, but he can no more touch poetry than he can reach a star. He rhymes, too, with a desperate disregard of melody or grammar. No one but an unscrupulous rhymist would have written the following, the first three lines in the book :

All day long the clouds have drizzled,
Drizzled on the earth below.
Till the trees are ice-befrizzled.

Then as to the grammar:

Oh where's my early violets?
'Tis time they were
Again astir.
My pretty, modest, blue-eyed pets!

What hope can we possibly have of a poet who could pen the following?

THE TEA-TABLE.

How beautiful the sight! the tidy table
Set out for tea—the buckwheat cakes all smoking—
The steaming urn—the watering mouth provoking;
The girls and boys, with eating powers able,
Awaiting father's grace ere they begin
To lay a store of mother's good things in.
The knife and spoon they ply with artless grace:
To chide their eager haste, the mother cries
In gentle tones, and warns them that "their eyes
Are bigger than their stomachs." Every face
Grows big with wonder as to what she means.—
The tea-time o'er, the children say their prayers,
And go to bed, and sleep devoid of cares.
Would that our lands were studded with such scenes!

As many as you like, Mr. MacKellar, of tea tables, where the little boys and girls can have plenty of bread and butter, but as few as possible of such descriptions!

Was it modesty which suggested "Spray" as the title of certain miscellaneous poems? If so, the modesty is misplaced, and so is the appellation. Often, very often, we have walked on the sea shore and watched the "spray" thrown from the wave as from a living thing, and rejoiced in the radiance which the sun was pouring into it. Still we felt how unsubstantial was this same beautiful spray, how brief the life of each glittering particle. It is precisely that the poems we are now noticing are not unsubstantial that the term "Spray" does not represent their value or their character. Or it may be that the earth, and not the ocean, suggested the title to the author; that these poems are the young shoots of a mind that shall yet grow into the stately tree. But this would in no wise be correct; for these poems, if internal evidence goes for anything, are rather the fruit of experience than the buds of juvenility. The author possesses serious and deep reflection, and ordinary objects of life present to him lessons for the guidance and the elevation of humanity. He has shown what perhaps it was his main object to show, namely, how suggestive every form is to the poetic mind.

GENERAL COLLETTA'S HISTORY OF NAPLES.

History of the Kingdom of Naples, 1734-1825. By GENERAL PIETRO COLLETTA. Translated from the Italian by S. HORNER. With a Supplementary Chapter, 1825-1856. 2 Vols. London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

THESE TWO VOLUMES will fill a gap in modern history. They treat of a period of which, modern as it is, little is known to the world at large; and of a country which, close as is its vicinity, and destined as it is, perhaps, ere long to be an apology or a pretext for a European war, is perhaps less known than any other European country. Scarcely a day has passed for many years without some one of the great guides of English opinion fulminating through its columns at the tyranny and bigotry which make Naples the plague-spot of Italy. It will be well if they who delight in vague generalities of invective against a government of which they know little, will give body and statistical accuracy to their attacks by gathering facts from the very useful work which is now before us. We recommend it heartily to our readers as containing a mass of useful information, carefully collected and judiciously systematised. It is the production of a Neapolitan general who died some years since, and it is now presented for the first time to this country in an English translation by Mr. Horner. In this form it is lucid and interesting; and, although impressed strongly with the political sentiments of the author, who suffered much in the cause of unsuccessful revolution, it will not probably be less acceptable to English sympathies on that account. The Italian problem is admitted by all Europe to be the political problem of this age. Only a few years, and perhaps only a few months, can be expected reasonably to elapse before the great powers of Europe will attempt its solution. Whenever that time comes Naples, whatever it may become, must cease to be what it is. If this proposition be doubted, ample evidence of its validity will be found in these volumes. Our limits do not permit us to give a lengthened epitome of them. We can only remind our readers of their general extent. They commence with the introduction of the Bourbons to the throne of Naples. Philip V., having been placed by his grandfather, Louis XIV. of France, on the throne of Spain, had succeeded by treaty in obtaining for his son Charles the duchies of Tuscany and Parma. In 1733 the war of the Polish succession saw Austria leagued with Russia against Spain. Philip incited his son to undertake the conquest of Naples against its Austrian occupants, and aided him with a large armament. The Spaniards were victorious under the Duc Montemar, and the Germans were everywhere defeated. Charles of Bourbon became King of the Two Sicilies, and retained his conquest when peace was made. His government, although despotic, was, on the whole, wise and beneficial. But he instituted those precedents of severity which have been copied servilely, without similar excuse, by his descendants. Charles of Bourbon reigned undisturbedly until 1759, when he succeeded to the throne of Spain, and abdicated that of the Two Sicilies in favour of his son Ferdinand IV. His long reign lasted till 1825; but was interrupted by the transitory Parthenopean republic of the French Revolution, and the more permanent, but still short-lived, reign of Joachim Murat. In 1815 the resettlement of Europe by the Treaty of Paris led to the extension and consolidation of the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and Ferdinand IV. assumed the title of Ferdinand I. In 1825 he transmitted to his son and successor, Francis I., a family character for cunning, cruelty, and feebleness of sovereignty, which Francis, in 1830, transmitted, in his turn, to his son, the present king, Ferdinand II. It is only doing justice to an unpopular sovereign to state that in his own country he was long popular, especially with the lower classes of the people; and even now he appears to enjoy much of that favour which the similar *bonhomie* and ability of Charles II. won for him. A government which is liked by large masses of the people cannot be wholly bad and unsuited to the nation; and, perhaps, before we yield entirely to the patriotic indignation of this history of the Two Sicilies, it will be well to consider carefully the circumstances of the government, the character of the people, and especially the dissimilarity of Italian from English nature.

Poetry: a Lecture. By Frederick Hinde, M.A. (Longmans).—An eloquent lecture, and the work of an accomplished, well-read man; yet, why printed with all this luxury of type and paper, and put forward with so much pomp as though containing something new and strange, is not apparent.

Town Swamps and Social Bridges. By GEORGE GODWIN, F.R.S. pp. 102. (Routledge).—The papers which make up this volume have already been introduced to the public in the periodical of which Mr. Godwin is the editor. They are designed as a sequel to a work by the same writer, entitled, "A Glance at the Homes of Thousands," and in them Mr. Godwin has endeavoured, and with much success, to unmask many startling secrets of life among the London poor. The great value of such a work as this lies, of course, in its suggestive faculty, for it is impossible that facts like those which fill the pages before us can be published without awakening, in some sympathetic breast, not only the wish, but the will to amend them. Mr. Godwin begins by arousing the fears of the landlord population, by pointing out the danger of keeping the poor in unhealthy and miserable abodes. Yet he must be aware that if the poor remain in such homes it is because they prefer them; that the experiment of offering clean and wholesome dwellings has been tried, and always in vain, until education and the appreciation of something better than what they have been accustomed to, have prepared them for an ameliorated state of things. There is nothing to compel any one to abide in the noisome pur-

lieus of Gray's-inn-lane, whilst cheaper and certainly more healthy dwellings are to be found in Islington, Highbury, Holloway, &c. It is evident that if people live there it must be because they prefer it. Mr. Godwin's volume deals with a variety of matters, social and sanitary, and may be read with profit by all who take an interest in these questions, which are really of vital importance.

THE MAGAZINES.—*Blackwood's* opens with a smart, epigrammatic account of a visit to the Camp at Chalons; followed by a humorous, but thoughtful essay upon "Clothes and Scarecrows." We agree with the writer of this—are we wrong in supposing him to be the editor?—when he condemns the present style of dressing as inelegant and tending towards slovenliness; but we cannot entirely agree with him when he gives in his adhesion to the Court suit and knee-breeches, to our thinking, one of the most absurd costumes ever adopted by human beings. Considering that this particular dress has been long since, with some slight modification, appropriated to footmen, and is only worn by gentlemen upon the rare occasions when Court etiquette compels them to don this livery of fashion, we scarcely expect to see it restored to universal adoption. The first part of a description of "The Turks in Kalafet, 1854;" an article on "The Castes and Creeds of India;" the first instalment of a novel entitled "The Luck of Ladysmede;" a review of Italy and an analysis of the position assumed by the Emperor of the French, complete the number.—*Titan* has a pleasant gossiping article, "Some Chat about the Law and the Limbs of It." There is an excellent review of the Rev. Mr. Polechampton's Lucknow letters. But the most readable article in the number is a review of Otto Ludwig's tale, "Zwischen Himmel und Erde."—In *Bentley's Miscellany*, Mr. Dudley Costello continues his series of commercial romances by beginning a fresh one, entitled "The History of Mr. Miranda." Walter Thornbury contributes a graphic ballad on a race-horse, "Silver-shoe;" and Miss Costello some verses of but moderate merit to the memory of Burns. We know not whether this was one of the "rejected addresses;" but we are certain that the composition of Miss Isa Craig belongs to a higher poetical stratum than one that can contain such a verse as this:

Ask we a bard of matchless worth
To fire, to cheer, to melt by turns—
Does not at once a name burst forth,
And every voice cry—ROBERT BURNS?

—The *National Magazine* has a capital selection of varied and attractive matter; among which may be honourably mentioned Mr. Robert Brough's continuation of his story, "Which is Which;" an amusing sketch of London life entitled, "Recollections of a Dramatic Author;" and another chapter of Mr. Sutherland Edwards's "Sketches and Studies in Russia."

—The *Eclectic* opens with a review of Mr. Mansel's lectures on "The Limits of Religious Thought;" followed by a notice of Dr. Doran's edition of Horace Walpole's Journals. The most readable paper in this number is one descriptive of the work of a newspaper office. It is called "The Newspaper—Day and Night," by "A Quondam Sub."—The *Englishwoman's Journal* has some characteristic and highly interesting articles. One on "Training-schools for Female Servants;" another on the "Liverpool Institution for the Training and Employment of Nurses;" a third on "How to Utilise the Power of Woman."—*Kingston's Magazine for Boys* is the first number of a new periodical published by Messrs. Bosworth and Harrison, and filled with miscellaneous stories of adventure, anecdotes, and such matter as boys usually delight in.—The *Art Journal* contains this month an unusually rich store of illustrations. The two pictures from the Royal collection are Van Eycken's "Abundance," rendered with extreme softness, and some splendid effects of light, by Mr. T. Vernon; and Achenbach's picture of "The Monastery," beautifully rendered by E. Goodall. The latter is a delicious scene, "full of life and splendour and joy." The piece of sculpture for the month is Marshall's statue of Jenner, engraved by J. Brown; and, sooth to say, we like it better in the engraving than in the marble. The literary department is of unusual variety and interest. Mr. Thornbury opens the number with a skilful piece of gossip about "Gainsborough and Green Lanes." Then, after a note descriptive of Van Eycken's picture, comes an article on the Caxton Monument, about which so much has been said and so little done. Contrasting the respective values of the talk and the work, the writer very justly pronounces the result to be "not quite creditable to the spirit of the age." An essay by Dr. Knox on "The Relation of Anatomy to Art;" a communication from Mr. Frith upon several matters connected with Photographic Art; a continuation of Mr. Fairholt's admirable essays on "British Artists: their Style and Character;"—this time taking for his subject William Frederick Witherington; Mr. Wright's continuation of his article on "Domestic Games and Amusements in the Middle Ages;" reviews of the exhibitions of the British Institution and the Female Artists' Society; and the third part of the "Excursions in South Wales," by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, make up a very capital number.

We have also received *Tales from Blackwood*, No. XII. (William Blackwood and Sons).—Containing "My College Friends," which appeared in *Maga* for August, 1846; and "The Magic Lay of the One Horse Shay," by the late John Hughes, M.A.—*The Bulwark* (Seeleys).—*London Savage: Shall it be Wasted? or Economised?* By C. O. S. Glassford (Effingham Wilson).—Containing a plan for utilising the sewage by collecting and deodorising it into an article of commerce.—*Routledge's Shakspeare*. Edited by H. Staunton. Parts XXXV. and XXXIV. (Routledge).—Containing the end of "Lear," with the entire of "Coriolanus." Numerous engravings by John Gilbert ornament the part.—*Davenport Dunn*. By Charles Lever. No. XX. (Chapman and Hall).—*The Works of the Rev. Sydney Smith*. Part III. (Longmans).—*Speech on the Laws relating to the Property of Intestates*. By P. J. Locke King, M.P. (Ridgway).—*A Few Observations in favour of the Principles which now regulate the Sale of Spirituous Liquors in Scotland*. (Ridgway).—*The Unitarian Pulpit*. No. XXIII.—*Parliamentary Reform: an Essay*. By Walter Bagshot. (Chapman and Hall).—A well-written and, for the most part, sensible review of the Reform question, by a gentleman whose tendencies are evidently Liberal-Conservative.—*An Inquiry into the Doctrine of the Church of England on Private Confession and Absolution*. By the Rev. C. J. Elliott, M.A. (Rivingtons.)

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

THE CRITIC IN PARIS.

YOU WERE HONOURED on the last day of the last month, along with several other of your literary contemporaries, to a notice in the *Revue Contemporaine*, à propos of Lady Morgan's "Passages from my Autobiography." The CRITIC is accused of offering the incense of its praises to the witty Irishwoman, and the *Revue* assures us, that there are still some who can recollect the reputation which the lady enjoyed some thirty years ago in the salons of Paris. For a long time Lady Morgan was, in these, the *femme à la mode*. "Yet," says the writer (who subscribes himself 'North Peat,' not telling us which northern bog he might have been dug out of), "scarcely had she returned to her native home when she hastened to exercise her wit at our expense. Her book entitled 'France,' as one knows, is from one end to the other but a pleasant critique on our institutions and manners. The attacks of the pretty Hibernian had only the effect of making the French, accustomed to laugh at graver matters, smile. She drew upon herself, notwithstanding, by the publication of this semi-comic work, the displeasure of her friends, and raised against her even the cry of indignation among the English aristocracy, who could not admit her Republican ideas. . . . According to her, Racine is cold; he has neither warmth nor imagination; Molière is barely supportable in his *petites comédies en prose*! Speaking of Talma, she says, 'He is is the Gulliver of the Théâtre Français, garrotted by the Lilliputians!' Lady Morgan has always in her writings affected eccentricity and extravagance." And so on, are the sins and failings of the witty lady of the Green Island insisted upon by the reviewer. You can best tell how far you are chargeable with having offered your incense at her shrine. But here "North Peat" has not done with you. If in memoirs the English press gives much, in poetry, on the hand, it gives but little. "The *Athenæum* and the *Critic*, which, in default of profound studies on the matters which they treat, have at least the privilege of being the first to point out contemporary works, send us for the last three months from the English Parnassus but a single Apollo! Owen Meredith, such is the name of the new poet, or rather such is the pseudonym under which the son of one of the most celebrated romancists of Great Britain has thought proper to present himself before the public." But Owen Meredith receives the approbation of the reviewer. He finds his verses full of grace and sensibility, with all the sparkle and freshness of youth. A translation is given of one of the author's pieces in which we are sure he would hardly know himself again: "Je le sais maintenant, ma petite Ella, ce que disaient les fleurs pour te rendre si pâle!" &c.; but allowances are to be made for a language which, with the greatest difficulty, and in the hands of the most cunning writer, comports itself indifferently in verse.

History, especially modern history, will be written and re-written until the question at some future day will be, which is the true history. It has been, and will continue to be, written from this point of view and from the other. It is written with passion and eloquence; it is written as frigidly as if the pen had been dipped into ink at the freezing point. It is written spitefully, and it is written affectionately. Extremes in either case are calculated to mislead, and the middle way will never be popular, except with a few of the hard-headed. Passion must enter history as into declamation, as into the address of a leading counsel, to make it savoury. But as all present and all future generations are to be empannelled by jurymen, what a blessing for these generations if we could have a clear summing up. The best that could happen to us now would be our being put in possession of a systematic index to all the *pièces historiques*. And yet this would be insufficient without some clue to the character of the great actors in history, their motives, their aspirations, their necessities. The great current is intelligible; that which put the current in motion must otherwise be differently guessed at. The "Histoire de la France depuis les origines gauloises jusqu'à nos jours," by M. Amédée Gabourd, is a work in twelve volumes. A new edition of Martin's History has reached the fourth volume. Then there is Mr. White's "History of France," noticed in your last impression. One must almost content himself with noting such facts. To read carefully, to note, to analyse, is a labour of time to which but very few can devote themselves. If we can make it clearly out, the design of M. Gabourd is to put in evidence the necessary harmony of religious faith and liberal institutions. The task has been undertaken before. It is a special one, and one in which it may be as easy to excel in as to fail. His maxim is one which will command universal sympathy—religion has nothing to fear from science and from truth. But we all know how science has been ignored, and how external verities have been thrust aside by ephemeral theories. This we do not accuse M. Gabourd of having done. Men of more leisure than we can command, recognising ourselves merely as handposts or indicators, must judge for themselves of M. Gabourd's merits as a historian. His first volume is devoted to the history of ancient Gaul and the Germanic Franks; the second includes the Merovingian period. The twelfth volume, recently published, conducts the reader to the death of Cardinal Richelieu.

Next Sunday will appear the first number of a new weekly periodical, founded by M. Jourdan of the *Siècle*, to be called the *Causeur* which will chat about everything but matters political. M. Jourdan, in a prospectus, says that he experiences an irresistible desire to converse more familiarly, more intimately, with his friends than he can now do in the columns of the *Siècle*. "I wish to talk with them freely, with the mind disengaged, and, as they say vulgarly, *Les pieds sur les chenets* (the feet upon the fender), about this, that, and everything—about new books, popular pieces, ridiculous fashions, interesting lawsuits, scientific discoveries—all shall pass under our eyes." And will not M. L. Veuillot, among the talk *à batons rompus*, catch it now and then?—A fourth edition has appeared of M. Cousin's "Jeunesse de Mme. Longueville."—"Le Parlement et la Fronde," by M. de Barante, calls again for attention, as being everything that could be expected from the pen of the historian of the Convention and the Directory.

Take as a mere piece of gossip that which follows. M. Mirès has purchased for the *Constitutionnel* a romance by De Lamartine. The work has not been completely paid for. The financier has advanced to the poet 60,000 francs; if, next New Year's Day this sum is not reimbursed to the financier by the poet, the romance will be definitively acquired to the journal, and will be published immediately.—Dumas has returned to Paris with money, jokes, and the experience of travel; and the wits have an interest in his capital. He gave a dinner of course, and in his court-yard, for seven hundred covers—a very Barmecidal feast. There was—Potage à l'Antony, Pâté Mousquetaire, Roti à la Don Juan de Marana, Poulet à la Monte-Cristo, Punch à la Romulus. These are mere samples of the bill of fare.

The last of any family, however humble it may have been in its origin, or however great—the last of the Bunyans, the last of the Stuarts—carries about its mention a degree of interest. On the 24th of last month was carried to her tomb, not the last of his race, but a descendant of the Preux Chevalier Bayard, *sans peur et sans reproche*. This lady held the humble appointment of post-mistress of Du Terrail, was the widow of a captain of gendarmerie of the same place, who fell a victim to his devotion during the floods of 1840, and was descended from the great warrior of Dauphiny. A son (in America) and two daughters of the Captain du Terrail still survive. The latter were with their mother, attending her with every care which affection can bestow, up to the hour of her death.—The Count d'Argout reclaims against M. Guizot on account of a passage in his "Memoirs," affecting the dignity of his late father. Guizot has rendered justice to the Count, but the sinning passage is where he represents him as the instrument of Casimir Perier. "The latter," says Guizot, "called out one day from the ministerial benches to D'Argout, who was going in the direction of the tribune, 'Here, Argout!' and his too-docile friend obeyed without a murmur the brutal apostrophe." The son denies that his father was brutally apostrophised, and avers that Casimir Perier uses the expression rather in the tone of friendship and familiarity, than as the mandate of an imperious master. We are all so very sensitive!—The naturalist may take the following statement at its worth; but we should really like to have it confirmed, or set aside as a learned joke. One M. Jobard of Brussels has discovered some traces of the sea-serpent; but the latter appears to resolve itself into a bird as supernatural. The story, as it appears in the *Journal de Bruges*, is, that a certain M. Dumoulin, established at Madagascar, had remarked a singular vase contained in a net carried by a servant of the king's household, who came to beg a drop of rum as a favour from its owner. M. Dumoulin after having poured the contents of eleven bottles into the seeming vase, introduced his hand to ascertain whether it was full. It was then he felt that the reservoir was not a gourd, and he demanded what it was. "An egg," replied the native. "Of what bird?" "I do not know." On reaching Bourbon he related the fact to Captain Abadie, who agreed with a merchant, named Malaboïs, to go in search of this marvellous egg, which they bought with several others, and sold to the French Government without saying a word as to their origin. It appears that these are the eggs of a great serpent from which the naturalists have made to spring a new species of monstrous bird, to which they have given the name *Epiornis*. This serpent, which attains the length of 200 ells, and whose body is thick as a barrel, still inhabits the river Linta, at the bottom of which it deposits its eggs, which are seldom found, except after great floods. The serpent itself issues only from the water at a certain age, and does not frighten the natives, who regard it as a fetish. It has left the river Matatani, which has become a dried-up torrent, and in the bed of which are still found the *débris* of its eggs. Here is probably the great sea-serpent about which navigators have so often amused the public. They may say now that the *Epiornis* belongs with more likelihood to the genera *Anas*. It is distressing always to have a mountain reduced to a mole-hill—a sea-snake to a goose.



From a Photograph by Mr. Herbert Watkins, No. 213, Regent-street.

*For insertion
H. Bowdler*

THE DRAMA, ART, MUSIC, SCIENCE, &c.

THE DRAMA.

IT would seem that the managers of the theatres are not very solicitous for newspaper notices, and are not very jealous of each other's productions, for on Monday evening no less than six theatres opened with novelties. Considering also that the new Reform Bill was on the same evening to be produced in the House of Commons, and considering also that the chief performers on that important stage were also to make a grand display, it would seem that the theatrical world is deemed to be one with a population peculiarly its own, and that no matter what may be the political attractions or the newspaper engagements, they will not be interfered with.

The novelty at Drury Lane Theatre, being a ballad opera comes under our musical notice.

At the Lyceum, a complete change of performance has taken place, Mme. Celeste and Mrs. Keeley having given way to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams. The first piece is a new drama in two acts, by Mr. Falconer, entitled "Leprachaun; or Bad Luck's Good Luck, with Good Looking After." This long title by no means betokens a good piece, although it involves a somewhat lengthy explanation. The Leprachaun, or Luprechaun, is a dwarf brownie in the Irish fairy mythology, who, in the likeness of a little old man, has power over hidden treasure, but the secret is only to be got from him by giving him a sound thrashing. Mr. Barney Williams enacts the hero, who has, in addition to the usual stage-Irish qualities, bravery, sauciness, and smartness of speech allied to confusion of ideas, a very effervescent belief in the existence of Leprachauns. As *Phelim O'Donnell*, late of the British Legion, he has some romantic adventures in Spain. He overcomes an armed brigand with his shillelah (that talisman of Irish humour); he saves a great lady from dishonour, who gives him a ring; and he is mistaken by a silly corregidor for General O'Donnell, the Spanish politician, who is then under the ban of the existing government. Constant good humour, monstrous disregard of danger, and all the usual conventionalities, create an immensity of laughter in that portion (generally the majority) of the audience which, only visiting the theatre on particular occasions, has not an intimate acquaintance with this kind of personage, so often found on the stage, and so seldom in real life. Fighting, joking, and kissing are indestructible sources of sympathy, and so the monstrosities of such pieces are pleasing, though improbable and commonplace. The main injustice of such plays consists in their dooming actors who deserve better parts to very bad ones; and this injustice is committed towards Mr. Barrett, Mr. Gaston Murray, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Fitzjames, and Miss Portman and Miss Kate Saxon, by the present riotous monologue. Mr. and Mrs. Williams occupy the entire evening; and the lady gives her monologue of "An Hour at Seville," wherein she runs through eight characters—a matter now so frequently done as to lower our estimate of its difficulty. "Ireland as it was" gives the popular couple an opportunity of appearing together, and dancing their celebrated Irish jig with an American energy engrafted on Irish vivacity.

At the Haymarket on Monday a Miss Emily Allen made her *début* in a new piece called "The Young Mother," condensed into one act by Mr. Selby from a play formerly in three acts; but which we do not recollect ever to have seen. It is evidently French, from its sentimental nature; and it can hardly be called a drama as it is the transcript of a couple of scenes in the family of an artisan. *Angelina* (Miss E. Allen) is a music-engraver, of some sixteen or eighteen years of age, who, having lost her parents, acts "the young mother" to her brothers and sisters. She is beloved by a cabinet-maker (Mr. Buckstone) who is earnest but comic in his affections; and she is perplexed by a loose brother (Mr. Villiers), and by a flighty sister (Miss E. Ternan), but supported by a very disinterested servant-girl (Miss Weekes). There is an overflow of goodness in this piece that to Parisian sympathies is doubtless very exciting,

but which in the colder latitude of London is apt to be considered rather too demonstrative. It may be all true, but John Bull is never without his doubts. Miss Allen has a pleasing, artless manner, but her voice is weak, her style puerile, and her experience—*nil*. She is yet in her pupillage, and has begun at the wrong end of her career, as she will have to descend from instead of rising to a metropolitan stage. It is a growing evil to be guarded against, this making the London stages platforms for instruction to theatrical pupils. The re-appearance of Mr. Charles Mathews, that capital veteran of youthful parts, and most finished actor, will do away with such experimental performances.

At the Adelphi, Mr. Wigan has reappeared after a three years' retirement on account of his health, and was cordially greeted by an audience which, mindful of his talents, was rejoiced to see an accomplished actor restored to his profession. He played his popular character in "Still Waters Run Deep," and was assisted by Mrs. Wigan, who also seems to have gained fresh health and energy by her temporary absence.

Astley's Royal Amphitheatre has produced a new equestrian piece, founded on Mr. H. Grant's novel. It has the imposing title of "The Hundred Cuirassiers," although we must confess we only saw about a tithe of this number of that particular class of soldiers. Mr. Holloway, as a gallant young Scotchman, is the hero, who, embracing the cause of the *Princess Louise de Lorraine* (Miss Dowton), ends with embracing the lady herself as husband, having slain a certain *Prince Pappenheim* (Mr. Herbert) and a *Count d'Bitche* (Mr. Mark Howard), who have cruel designs on the heroine. The horse business is not very remarkable; but there is a good procession, in which they look well. There is the usual comic business confided to Mr. Regan, Mr. Francis, and Miss Weston; and it has some pretty scenery. We never visit this theatre without hoping that the nineteenth century will not pass without producing a real horse-dramatist, with a true genius for the development of equine talents.

The Surrey Theatre seems to follow very close in the wake of the Parisian melodramatic theatres, and reproduces rapidly the successful dramas of the Boulevards. On Monday such a piece entitled "The Artist's Family" was produced, Mr. Creswick representing, with great care and considerable talent, the artist. The story is well developed, and has but little exaggeration; its fault being that it represents rather too closely the miseries of everyday life. The artist is an engraver gradually growing blind, and who is thus, with his charming family, slowly but surely gliding down to all the horrors of absolute pauperism. In the midst of this calamity he is induced by an early school-fellow to participate in cheating at cards; but when he has thus soiled by one error his before unsullied life and honourable career he is a lost man; and stricken at heart by remorse, and oppressed with grief at his daughter's misconduct, he cannot be recalled to existence even by his inheritance of a large fortune and the marriage of his daughter to her betrayer. This strange vagary of the dramatist would alone pronounce its Parisian origin, and it manifests a curious notion of morality. The man once cheating at cards, though to save a family from starvation, must have its retribution, and he must die before the audience; but the lapse of virtue in a maiden can be entirely repaired by her marriage with her seducer, and she re-enters society triumphantly. Mr. Widdicombe, though exceedingly extravagant as a dissolute servant, was also exceedingly comic, and Miss Cuthbert was *naïve* and natural as his associate. Mrs. C. Calvert acted very nicely as the daughter, and Mr. Voltaire as a chivalrous old general; Mr. Basil Potter as one of the usual Parisian villains, and Mr. Fernandez as the lover, were sufficiently effective. The scenery and appointment were all that could be desired; and the ball-room, with its various groups, was very tastefully as well as splendidly displayed. The success was complete; but the mournful conclusion, and really pathetic acting, prevented the triumphant expression that usually characterises success at this theatre.

ART AND ARTISTS.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

IT has been announced that at the suggestion of some artistic friends, Mr. David Cox is about to arrange an exhibition consisting entirely of his own works, and that it will be shortly opened in London. It is further stated that many who possess fine specimens by this great water-colourist have agreed to lend them for the purposes of the exhibition.

Messrs. C. Baxter, Henzell, and Clater have been appointed the Hanging Committee to the Suffolk-street Exhibition.

On Tuesday evening, the second *conversazione* of the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, took place at the French Gallery, Pall-mall, and was numerously attended. Mr. Atkinson was called to the chair. Mr. H. Ottley read a paper "On the Subject of the Law of Copyright in Works of Art." He showed how essential it was, both for the interests of art and for the protection of private property, that a stop should be put to the practice of offering for sale bad copies of great works. It was a fraud upon the public, which the power of the law must be used to put down. Mr. Ottley illustrated his lecture with many anecdotes, and was much applauded at the close.

It has been mooted whether Mr. Sheepshanks cannot be induced to forego the conditions under which he presented the collection at Kensington to the nation, so far as to allow them to be arranged with the Vernon and Turner collections. We have no doubt that whenever Mr. Sheepshanks sees a fitting receptacle provided for the national pictures he will be very happy indeed to allow his pictures to be arranged with them.

An item of political rather than of artistic news is that a subscription for a portrait of Mr. Bright has been made at Manchester, for the adornment of the council chamber in that city.

The Glasgow papers speak of some valuable pictures sold by Messrs. Brown and Macindoe of that city. One, a Van Balen (the teacher of Van Dyck), for 400 guineas. A Sydney Cooper was sold to a London dealer for 200*l*., and two fine but rather manneristic landscapes of Rosneath and Inverary, by the elder Nasmyth, have been purchased by the Duke of Argyll.

Commenting upon the recent election of an Associate to the Royal Academy, and especially upon the length of time during which that Associateship was allowed to remain vacant, the *Art Journal* says: "Our readers know that it is not very long since the Royal Academy were persuaded to abolish that absurd and unjust regulation by which their elections, in either rank, were limited to a particular period of the year, so as, in combination with another restriction of theirs equally injurious, to occasion, almost as a matter of course, a lengthened vacation, and as a matter of probability, very lengthened in one of a number of benefices ridiculously disproportioned at best to the number of expectants awaiting them and well entitled to their enjoyment. According to the common sense and common justice of the matter, the vacancy is filled up now as soon as it is created; though in the present instance, circumstances have deprived the last Associate of the full benefit of this new birth of Academic reason. The Queen's absence from town, and engagements, have, it appears, prevented the signature of Mr. Foley's diploma; and till the diploma is signed, the election of the Academician is considered incomplete, and the vacancy for the Associateship not to have accrued. Whether, in days like these, the Queen's absence in the far Highlands presents such a positive obstacle to the completion of an Academic title as the newly awakened wit of the body may not yet succeed in overcoming, we will not pause to inquire."

The *Builder* gives an account of a mode of fixing chalk and charcoal drawings, discovered by a M. Ortlieb, and by him communicated to the Academy of Sciences at Paris. The plan, which has the advantage of great simplicity, consists in executing the pastel upon thick but unsized paper, such as is used in copper-plate printing, and afterwards applying the fixing liquid to the back; it is thus quickly absorbed, without causing any disturbance of colours on the other side. To this it must be added, that none but mineral colours should be used, these being the only ones that can combine with the silicates, which have no action on vegetable colours. These rules being observed, the picture will not only resist damp, but will even resist washing with water; acid vapours have an effect upon it; and it becomes combustible.

The *Art Journal* says: "Our brave and energetic contemporary, the CRITIC, claims, and claims justly, the merit of having, by a timely protest, prevented the removal of the national pictures of the English school to this receptacle, where damp, if not fire, would have made short work of them. The idea was so preposterous that we ourselves conceived the rumour to be an invention; we are consequently the more

bound to accord due honour to the CRITIC, and to express the gratitude of all artists and art-lovers for the exposure, and the comments, that averted from a fate so disastrous the collections of Vernon and Turner, and the other glories of our British artists." [We thank our contemporary for the frank and friendly honesty of this compliment.]

We have received several communications requesting elucidation of many paradoxes and dogmas contained in Mr. Ruskin's address to the Manchester art-students, published in our last. We subjoin one of them, because it briefly sets forth some of the most obvious incongruities:

Sir,—As a student in art, anxious to steer the right course to advancement, I have been reading Mr. Ruskin's address to the Manchester School of Art, in your last number. The first word of encouragement I get from the address is to "take a wrong course—try to draw attention to your works" (I suppose by exhibiting) "and if you are CLEVER, you would probably soon get from the world some reward; but set rightly to study painting, and the reward would always be held aloof from you for a time." Now, if clever, why does the right course retard the student's progress, and why, if there is but one right way, does not Mr. Ruskin point it out? We are told: "Whenever two artists were trying to do the same thing, with the same materials, and did it in different ways, one way must be wrong;" and at the same time are asked to accept, as models of practice, Titian, Reynolds, Velasquez, Leonardo, Rembrandt, and Albert Durer, the whole of whom were as diametrically opposed to each other, both in their manipulative means and their results, as possible. I ask which of them pursued "the one way of doing things rightly,—being all different, were they all right or all wrong?" or has the great Art Proseger "not quite determined," or "in doubt;" or is his dictum upon the matter to be taken at all? I, for one, should prefer being "pretty nearly left in the hands of Providence."—I am, &c. N. W.

It is much to be deplored that a gentleman of such remarkable qualifications for speaking authoritatively as to the fine arts, should be so careless in his postulates and so utterly false in deduction. Mr. Ruskin should never be read by a student—he is only enjoyable by a critic, or a man who knows nearly as much as himself. He lacks judgment to fulfil the office of teacher; and, moreover, from his own mouth we learn that his experience is not sufficiently matured to enable him to give an absolute answer on many points where there should be no doubt. For two qualities Mr. Ruskin may be perused with gratification and advantage, viz., enthusiasm and style; all the rest is "leather and prunella."

Mr. Dominic Colnaghi, who is as much distinguished by urbane courtesy as by real knowledge and critical acumen in the fine arts, has permitted us to view the remarkable collection of miniature portraits belonging to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. Our readers will be enabled to form some idea of the artistic wealth and positive value of these many hundreds of portraits, when we inform them that the various series belonging to the countries of England, France, Spain, Germany, &c., ranging from the time of Henry VIII., to Napoleon are ushered in by some score from the hand of Holbein. It is pleasurable to behold wealth, station, and intellect combining for the collection and preservation of these invaluable illustrations of historic pages giving to the eye and mind the counterfeit presentment of personages as they lived, and showing forth "the very age and body of the time."

The sales advertised by Messrs. Christie and Manson this week are chiefly noticeable, not from the fact of there being any remarkable development of artistic power or skill (though, as is set forth on one of the catalogues, there be amongst them "pleasing examples of many popular artists of the present day"), but because many of the works belonged to two celebrated personages, one of whom administered largely to the gratification of the sense of hearing, the other to the sense of taste. We mean the gifted and estimable Sontag and the renowned chef Alexis Soyer. Many of the pictures are the handiwork of Mme. Soyer, who died some time before her husband.

The Builder gives the following account of the "temporary" home provided for the National pictures by the Chancellor of the Exchequer: "It is of considerable size, very soundly built, and has been carried up and part of it finished in a remarkably short space of time. It consists of two blocks: the first running north and south, and communicating with the Sheepshanks Gallery, is divided by a wall down the middle and two cross walls into six galleries, each 50 feet long by 25 feet wide; the second, at the northern end of the first, running east and west, and forming one large gallery 110 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet in height up to the lights. The first-mentioned galleries are 24 feet in height up to the light. The whole have been built and covered in, and the first six smaller galleries rendered fit for occupation, with the exception of the hot-water pipes, in eight weeks. Confining ourselves for the present to the latter—the roof is very light, and has a somewhat temporary aspect; skylights occupy the apex of it the whole length of the galleries; and, at the foot of these, hang flaps for ventilation, opened by a set of levers and a rope in each apartment. Near the floor there are small openings to admit fresh air, regulatable by a screw. The floors are formed on Fox and Barrett's principle, with rolled iron joists. A dado is formed round all the galleries, of Captain Scott's cement, of which a very good character is given by those who have used it. The walls of the galleries are battened, canvassed,

papered, and coloured. We have said that the new galleries communicate with the Sheepshanks Gallery, but there are boiler-plate iron doors in the openings, and it is yet a question whether or not the trustees of the Vernon and Turner collections will keep them separate from the rest of the Museum, or allow them to be entered from it. A separate entrance from the grounds, leading up to the centre of the great gallery (as the British Institution), is provided. All the works have been conscientiously performed by Mr. Kelk, Mr. Barrett working under him in his department; and the cost exclusive of fitting up the apartments beneath, will probably be about 7,000*l.*, namely, 4,000*l.* (including the hot-water pipes) for the galleries already finished, and 3,000*l.* for the large gallery. To sum up the accommodation, we may note that there are 410 feet of gallery, affording 14,000 square feet of available space without hanging high." [A very solid work it must be admitted, if intended for only temporary use. Let us hope that it will not prove to be as temporary as the Grand Opéra, at Paris, which was built for temporary occupation for a year, and has lasted more than thirty years.]

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

AFTER a long slumber, Handel's oratorio "Solomon" has been again brought into notice by the Sacred Harmonic Society. "Solomon," though not the greatest work of the immortal composer, is far from being the least. It contains choral writing which, for grandeur of conception and sustained power, takes rank with the choicest of Handel's inspirations, while many of the airs, by their grace and elegance, give additional force to the massive sublimity of the choruses that circumspect them. "Solomon," however, does not possess the advantage of embodying Scriptural events so grand and soul-engrossing as those which form the theme of the "Messiah" or the "Israel in Egypt." Its interest is limited and personal, affording but little scope for depicting human passion or religious enthusiasm. The less imposing character of this sacred drama, as compared with the two above quoted, must account for its less extended popularity; otherwise it is difficult to understand the comparative neglect of the very exquisite solos and noble choruses which it contains. There is also much in the character of portions of the music, so different from the more ordinary peculiarities of Handel's style, as to invest it with interest on this ground alone. The action commences with an allusion to the piety of Solomon and the dedication of the temple, as recorded in Biblical history. A second argument relates to the wisdom of the King in general, and especially to that memorable decision in the dispute between the two mothers, narrated in the third chapter of the first book of Kings. The splendour, riches, and skill of David's highly favoured son, and the visit of the Queen of Sheba, form the subject of the third and final division of the oratorio. Some of the metrical strains introduced by the librettist, are not of such enduring materials as to stand the wear and tear of time, much less the advance of mind. Many of them now are passed over with cold neglect; and many a listener who went to Exeter Hall on the last Friday evening in the month of February, though armed with a recognised and deservedly popular hand-book of Solomon, found the great pioneer, Novello, more a perplexer than a guide. A double chorus, "With pious hearts," tested the efficiency of the executants at a very early stage of the evening. This chorus contains some very extraordinary and beautiful chromatic progressions, and when sung with a critical regard to the ideas that the writer wished to have expounded, a striking effect is produced. Contrary to the rule laid down by the Sacred Harmonic Society, the chorus that closes the first part, "May no rash intruder," was repeated, in compliance with the general wish of the audience. The solo singers were Mesdames Catherine Hayes, Weiss, Miss Dolby, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Thomas. Among the more conspicuous portions of the oratorio may be mentioned the devotional air "What though I trace," Miss Dolby; and the more dramatic one in the second part "Can I see my infant gored," Mme. Catherine Hayes, who imparted to it an immense amount of pathos and energy. The songs "Sacred raptures" and "See the tall palm," are so florid as to belong almost to the bravura style; they require a voice of greater breadth, better quality, and more flexibility than Mr. Smith possesses to do them justice. Mr. Thomas had little to do. Nothing could be more perfect than the execution of the overture and sinfonia, but the lack of orchestral writing for some of the instruments to which we are now accustomed for effects, made all the instrumentation appear monotonous and meagre. The hall was fully attended, and upon the whole the oratorio under the conductorship of Mr. Costa went off with a decided success.

Mr. Henry Leslie's choir met for the fifth time this season on Thursday, the 24th ult. As on previous occasions, St. Martin's Hall was crowded. The programme submitted comprised ancient madrigals and part-songs. In the selections from early English composers were: "Hard by a fountain" (H. Waelrent, A.D. 1550), "In going to my lonely

bed" (Edwards, 1560), and "Flow, O my tears" (J. Benet), which intensely beautiful composition is dated forty years subsequent. These were sung faultlessly, and produced telling effects. Among modern writers, Sir H. Bishop shone conspicuously. A glee sung in chorus, "Where art thou, beam of light," exhibited an amount of musical efficiency and intelligent discrimination worthy of the highest commendation. In the more solemn and imposing part-song by Stevens, "The cloud-capt towers," the same spirit and tonal colouring were strikingly manifest. Nor were these amateur executants much at fault when a solo started from the thick-wedged ranks of crotchets and quavers. At present there is not a redundancy of bass soloists; and we have frequently had occasion to listen to *soi-disant* principals who, if tested, would "pale their ineffectual fires" when brought into proximity with such an amateur, for instance, as Mr. Stroud. This gentleman has an excellent quality of voice, with a good register; and certain it is that the schooling at St. Martin's Hall, under Mr. Leslie, has proved itself to be based on a system thoroughly calculated to develop the essentials necessary for a correct reading and a nicety of intonation. There was a full attendance and a highly pleased auditory, i.e., if plauditory demonstrations are to be taken as evidences of feeling.

Drury Lane on Monday evening submitted a new ballad opera, entitled "William and Susan," the words by Mr. Reynoldson, and the music by Mr. Tully. As the subject—which is a mere adaptation of Jerrold's "Black-eyed Susan"—was familiar and the scene-painting good, as the performers were popular and the songs pleasing, the production "took" amazingly. During the performance all the principals came in for demonstrations of approval. The chief vocalists were Miss Huddart and Miss Lucette, a *débutante*, Messrs. Rosenthal, Williams, and last, not least, Mr. H. Haigh, a gentleman who has attained to some eminence as an operatic performer.

Chamber and operatic music appear to be gaining ground in the estimation of the general public beyond what was first anticipated by the promoters of the Monday Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall. The quartet and trio are beginning to be understood. In proportion to enlightenment, so will the mind be delighted and improved upon hearing the works of the really great masters in this branch of the musical art. A very old-fashioned quartet of Haydn's was selected to open the concert of Monday, but it was nevertheless quite as opportune as aged. The andante contained the air and variations known as "God save the Emperor," and the audience seemed thoroughly to enjoy as much the composition as the manner in which it was expounded by Mr. Biagrove, Herr Ries, Herr Schreurs, and Signor Piatti. Haydn's quartet never met with more respectful treatment than on Monday evening. A trio in G major for pianoforte, violin, and violoncello—another bright star in Haydn's diadem—was admirably developed; in this instance Mr. Lindsay Sloper had the pianoforte part assigned him. Among the vocalists, Mrs. Enderssohn won an encore in the canzone, "She never told her love," and Mr. Santley received a similar compliment in the air, "For as the waters," from the cantata entitled "Natur und Liebe," a composition of Weber's but little known in this country. A canon, set down in the programme for Miss Palmer, was supplanted by a grand dramatic scena, "Ariana a Naxos," which was lengthy, and in other respects less suitable for the occasion than the canon, or many other excellent things that might have been selected without much research. There was an excellent auditory, and every piece was listened to with commendable attention. At the next meeting Beethoven is to be represented; and on Ash Wednesday, the Mozart selection, which gave such satisfaction on the 21st ult., is to be repeated.

Mr. Hullah's programme of the "May Queen," and Beethoven's "Choral Symphony," attracted another full attendance at St. Martin's Hall on Wednesday evening. These were performed in a manner that reflects the highest credit on all concerned. The principal vocalists were the Misses Banks, Martin, Palmer, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. Santley. Mr. Hullah was highly applauded, and deservedly so, for the performance of the pieces under his direction gave abundant evidence of his skill and ability for the onerous duties he had undertaken to discharge.

On Wednesday evening Wallace's beautiful opera, "Maritana," was given at Covent Garden. The performance was honoured by her Majesty, the Prince Consort, and their attendants. "The Rose of Castile" and "Satanella" have occupied the other evenings of the week. If "Rip van Winkle" is to appear he must make haste about it, as Mr. Gye is sounding his note of preparation for great things that are to take place on the same platform shortly. But we feel assured that the American production will stand over.

The Crystal Palace Company went a little way out of the beaten track on Saturday, the 26th ult., and, abandoning the popular style, courageously attempted the music of Mendelssohn's "Edipus in Colonis." The announcement of this serious and classical production had the effect of filling the space appropriated for Saturday musical unions to its utmost capacity, before the performance began. It is well known that Mendelssohn wrote for the

"Antigone" of the Athenian dramatist. This was performed at Exeter Hall about eight years since under the superintendence of Professor W. Sterndale Bennett, but the success was not then sufficient to justify a repetition, although great pains were taken to give *éclat* to it. The music of "Edipus" is not likely to gain upon "Antigone" or the lyrics of Racine. It is true that the chorus selected on Saturday were by no means competent to do justice to Mendelssohn's music, and but for a good band they would have been frequently in that undignified position described in sporting phraseology "no where." We greatly doubt whether this departure from the original plan is fraught with much wisdom.

Professor Sterndale Bennett's "May Queen" improves on acquaintance. It formed a highly interesting feature in the second dress concert of the Vocal Association, at St. James's Hall, on Wednesday evening. This circumstance is noteworthy also for the effective manner in which it was performed and the general appreciation of its merits by a large and fashionable auditory. It ought not to be doubted that in England, as well as in Continental countries, good composers are to be found, who, if backed with equal patronage, and afforded like opportunities, would take equal rank with the foreigner. Why not? Better executants than are to be met with in our large orchestras no city in the world can produce. But somehow our composers, figuratively speaking, show themselves as rarely as a comet or a marching regiment. Mr. Benedict's overture to "The Tempest," Beethoven's overture (Op. 124), and a "Marche Hongroise," by Berlioz, were the pieces selected for a display of instrumental prowess. But the still more engrossing portions of this remarkable entertainment consisted in the "Ave Maria" from Mendelssohn's posthumous opera of "Lorely," composed as a chorus for female voices, with soprano solo—sung on this occasion for the first time in public—and the finale to the first act of the same opera. The fragment of "Lorely" is, from various concurring causes, regarded as the most interesting of the lamented composer's posthumous works. It was composed at a period of life when his knowledge had become vast and his genius ripe. The subject of the opera is taken from an ancient legend, well known on the banks of the Rhine, and the finale in question is so constructed that, without the connecting parts, it tells its story with clearness, and may be regarded as a dramatic cantata, complete in itself. The scene is laid on the banks of the Rhine—the moonlit haunts of the spirit of the stream; the sounds of the orchestra express the echoing of the winds, and the murmurings of the water. Fays and spirits, in choral groups, are distinctly heard calling to each other, and singing in unearthly strains their various pastimes and pursuits. Their revelries are disturbed by a mortal foot, *Leonora* (Mme. Catherine Hayes), who laments the misery of unrequited love, and calls for retribution. Her call is echoed by the murmuring voices of the river, and she invokes the unseen spirits to render aid. Certain conditions are complied with on the part of the distressed lover, and she vents her frantic exultation, accompanied by the voices of the spirits. The story of "Lorely," with its unearthly agencies, its unhappy heroine, and the terrible consummation of her fate in being the bride of the Rhine, forms altogether a subject especially calculated to develop the bright genius which pervades the scene of what was clearly intended to realise a great design. To give anything like a correct notion of what Mendelssohn wished, demands a performer of great dramatic talent, and more than ordinary vocal power; for it rises to a climax of passion rarely exhibited. Mme. Catherine Hayes threw her whole soul into the task, and no success could have been more complete. The chorus-singers—a little unsteady at first—went through their arduous task with commendable judgment and energy. We must not pass over an aria, "O salutaris hostia," of cherubim, sung with great taste and expression by Miss Lascelles. The principal vocalists engaged in Dr. Bennett's pastoral were, the lady just named, Miss Stabbach, Mr. Wilbye Cooper, and Mr. Santley. Taken altogether, the second great meeting of the Vocal Association has left a most favourable impression respecting the judgment of the directorate. M. Benedict conducted.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

MR. BARNUM announces his "farewell address" to be delivered at St. James's Hall on Saturday, the 12th of March.

A concert, at which Mr. Henry Leslie's oratorio, "Judith," will be performed for the first time in London, and for which a number of eminent vocalists are engaged, is announced to take place at St. Martin's Hall, on the 8th inst., under the patronage of her Majesty, in aid of the funds of the Great Northern Hospital.

Her Majesty has paid four visits to the English Opera, Covent Garden, during the last three weeks; Mr. Balfe's opera of "Satanella," and Mr. Wallace's "Maritana," being the attractions.

Mme. Catherine Hayes gave another brilliant concert on Saturday evening last, in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester. A local paper says: "Mme. Hayes confined herself to ballads, of which no fewer

than six were sung. The most effective was 'The Irish Mother's Lament,' founded upon a romantic legend, affording great scope for powers like those of Mme. Hayes, herself a native of the Emerald Isle. There is nothing very striking in the melody of the ballad, so that very much depends upon the singer, and nothing could be finer as an expression of wild pathos. All the others were given in her usual highly finished and expressive manner; 'Savourneen Dheelish' calling forth as an encore the fine ballad, 'The harp that once through Tara's halls,' and 'The Minstrel Boy,' that of 'Home, sweet home.' 'The Power of Love,' from Balfe's new opera of 'Satanella,' was perhaps the least effective, since it does not offer much scope for a voice like hers."

Mr. John Cheshire, the youthful harpist, of the Royal Academy of Music, is said to have signed an engagement for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and leaves England in a few days with high introductions and credentials to fulfil it.

A pamphlet, just published by M. de la Fage, on tonic unity, and the necessity of fixing a universal pitch in music, states that the Chinese diapason is a sonorous tube, the tone of which has not varied since the year 2500 before Jesus Christ. Plutarch, he remarks, speaks of an instrument by which C. Gracchus pitched his voice when about to address a multitude. He says that several learned men, and amongst them Gerbert, Salomon de Caus, Descartes, and Diderot, have endeavoured to determine one sole tone; but variations have constantly taken place, and the diapason has risen, until, at length, it has been necessary to fix it by a decree. M. Berlioz, he adds, goes so far as to propose that organ builders and pianoforte makers shall be condemned to fine or imprisonment if they sell instruments out of the pitch fixed by law.

The Roman correspondent of the *Morning Post* says that the musical world has been in a complete state of *furore* here since the 17th ult., when Verdi's new opera, "Unballo in Maschera," was produced at the Apollo Theatre. The excitement was so great that boxes were sold at fabulous prices, and pit tickets were eagerly bought up at twenty times their usual value. Patrols were kept in the immediate vicinity of the theatre, lest the public, in its enthusiasm, should so far forget itself as to cry "Viva Verdi!" the political watchword of Northern Italy. Foschini, the tenor singer, performed his part very finely, but in general the execution of the opera was not sufficiently perfect to enable connoisseurs to form a correct opinion of its merits. Nevertheless, it may be considered to have had a favourable reception. The duet in the second act, and the whole of the third act, met with great applause. The public distinguished between the beauties of the composition and the defects of its execution, and the *maestro* was called for on the stage, to receive the congratulations of the audience no fewer than twenty-three times. The Prince of Wales (adds this chatty informant) appears to be enjoying his stay in Rome extremely. His health and spirits are excellent; he is eager for information; and no *sovant* could set about his sight-seeing in a more determined or methodical manner. Last week his Royal Highness availed himself of the fine weather to visit almost all the antiquities of the southern and eastern part of the city from the Tiber to the Lateran, comprising what ancient Rome has to offer most interesting on the Aventine, Celian, and Palatine Hills. On Friday he drove to Veii, accompanied by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and Mr. Pentland, besides the usual members of his suite. After visiting the citadel and other scattered objects of interest in that most forlorn of ancient cities, the party lunched under the trees that have long since resumed their dominion over extinct Etruscan palaces and temples. The Prince rode back with Lord Stratford through the beautiful valley of the Cremera, having fully enjoyed one of the most lovely spring days that this delightful climate can offer. On Saturday his Royal Highness went, under the guidance of Mr. Gibson, to visit some *studii*, amongst which were those of Mr. Penry Williams, the painter, and the sculptors Messrs. Gott and Gatley.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETIES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—On Friday evening the 25th ult., the lecture theatre at the Royal Institution was crammed almost to suffocation to hear Professor Faraday's lecture. For some years past it has been customary with this eminent chemist to set aside one of the "Friday nights" for the introduction of some subject held by him to be of paramount importance, and from the conjoined operation of his reputation as a scientific man, and of the curiosity excited by the experiments whereby these lectures are illustrated, the audience is always very numerous and very brilliant. On Friday night, the chair was taken by his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, whose entrance into the theatre might have been more enthusiastically greeted had he not kept the audience waiting more than half an hour over the prescribed time. Punctuality has been well said to be the politeness of kings, and it certainly could not detract from the popularity of the Prince Consort if he

condescended to be a little more exact in this respect. Small and inconvenient as the theatre of the Royal Institution is found to be whenever an unusually large audience especially taxes its capacity, it is certainly no joke to be kept waiting half an hour before the business of the evening opens. At length, however, Professor Faraday commenced his lecture, selecting as his subject the three oxygens discovered by Professor Schönbein. The peculiar substance called ozone, which was discovered by Schönbein about ten years ago, has been since proved to be oxygen in a peculiar state, called allotropic. Recently the same German philosopher has discovered another state of oxygen. Those two states of that elementary body produce opposite effects, and when combined form oxygen in the state in which it exists in the atmosphere. Mr. Faraday is of opinion that the existence of these opposite states of that important body has been satisfactorily proved, and he exhibited numerous experiments to show the evidence on which that opinion is founded. In some of those experiments the properties of ozone and of the other state oxygen, ant-ozone, were shown separately, and by the combination of the two the formation of common oxygen was effected. The two ozones are regarded as exalted conditions of oxygen, which are neutralised by their mutual actions and reactions on each other, and thus produce oxygen in the state in which it is generally known. Professor Faraday observed that discoveries of this kind can scarcely fail to have most important practical results. When it is considered that one-half of all the known materials in the world consists of oxygen, and that that body is capable, by the action of the sun, or by other agencies, of having its active properties completely changed, the circumstances by which those changes are produced and their effects become matters of great interest, and a new field of research is thus opened that may lead to applications as valuable as any of those other applications of scientific principles that have astonished the world within the last thirty years. The lecture, as we need hardly state, excited great attention among the audience; though we should imagine, from the very recalcitrant nature of the subject, that but few understood it. We cannot help thinking, moreover, that among the more scientific portion of the audience, greater pleasure would have been experienced had the learned lecturer addressed himself less frequently and less pointedly to his illustrious auditor. There are some who think that the mortal powers of this world sink into insignificance when compared with the immensity of Nature, and it verges slightly upon the absurd when a learned professor compliments a prince upon the notice which "he has been pleased to take" of an element which constitutes at least one half of creation.

MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY.—On Monday evening Professor Ramsay commenced a course of six lectures on geology to working men. The subject of the introductory discourse was on heathen and modern writers. The lecturer observed, that although geology was one of the most important and useful sciences, and although at all periods the study of the earth's crust had excited great attention, yet until within a comparatively very recent period it had not been reduced to a system. He then mentioned several of the old writers on the subject. Many of these had stated that the fossils which occurred in the earth were phenomena which could not be accounted for, but were merely peculiar shapes resembling the prints of the foot of a man or the impression of a plant. In the reign of Richard Cœur de Lion a writer mentions the discovery of a fossil tooth of large size—this being that of some extinct animal. He then states that this proves that formerly the men who inhabited the earth must have been of great size and strength, as in the single tooth he found there was sufficient to make several sets. He further substantiates this story by observing that this is not improbable, as he himself had once seen a man who was twelve feet in height! The lecturer then alluded to the stratification of the earth. By the diagram before them they would see how this occurred in the British isles. Many writers stated that the formation of the rocks was owing to the action of water, others by fire. In the few lectures which he should deliver to them he would endeavour to point out the difference between the several writers as well as to place before them a plain statement of the facts connected with the geological structure of the globe. The first person who had ever thought of constructing a geological map was Lister, sometime towards the end of the last century. The suggestions he had made, although susceptible of great improvement, had been followed out by several individuals, and was now being perfected by the Geological Survey of Great Britain, of which commission he had the honour to be a member. The writings of Hutton, Weiner, Woodward, and several others were alluded to, and the theory of concentric circles described. Among the writers on this subject was Dr. Thomas Burnett, an orthodox divine, who flourished about 1690. His theory was that first all was chaos, then the aqueous, and afterwards the solid and gaseous masses, were separated; subsequently the earth was without a mountain or any of those inequalities we now perceive, the water being in the middle. From the heat of the sun, however, the earth became baked, and this caused rifts. As these

chasms opened the water came in, and hence the universal deluge. On the subsidence of this the present mountains and valleys were left; and this was the theory of a clergyman of that period. Professor Ramsay concluded by observing that an acquaintance with elementary geology could not fail to be of great utility to all who were interested in a knowledge of the globe they inhabited, and he trusted that they would be enabled to reap some practical benefit from the instruction they might obtain in that institution.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—At the meeting held on the 22nd of February, the discussion upon Mr. Jameson's paper, "On the performance of the screw-steamship, *Sahel*, fitted with Du Trembley's combined vapour engine; and of the sister ship, *Oasis*, with steam engines worked expansively, and provided with partial surface condensation," was continued. Some recent experiments on steamboats gave the following results:

No.	Name of Vessel.	Absolute pressure of Steam on admission.	Ratio of Expansion, nearly.	Consumption of Coal per I. H. P. per hour.
1	Admiral Callas	Per sq. inch. 34 lbs.	5	2.95 lbs.
2		38 "	6	2.7 "
3		63 "	8	1.88 "
4	Not yet named.	106 "	15	1.018 "

In reference to the combined engine, it was stated, that theory showed, that for a given initial pressure and temperature of steam, the combined engine must be the more economical, because of its enabling a lower limit of minimum temperature to be reached, and diminishing the loss by overcoming back pressure and friction; but it appeared, that by using a high-enough initial pressure and temperature of steam, the steam engine could always be made equal, or superior in efficiency, when required. It was thought, that expansion in marine engines might be resolved into two considerations: first, could a pound of steam develop more power, when used very expansively, than when carried to the usual point of about three-fourths the length of the stroke, before cutting off, as in the ordinary full-powered marine engine? Secondly, was the expenditure of coal per i. h. p. increased or diminished, as expansion was extended. A series of trials, with H.M.S. *Renown*, *Victor Emmanuel*, *Algiers*, and *Racon*, showed, that when only half the number of boilers was used and the steam was worked expansively, being cut off at 6.5 of the stroke of the piston, more than half the power was developed, which was given out by all the boilers, though the excess was not considerable. The mechanical arrangements of M. du Trembley's engine are entitled to great praise. That engine presents an advantage in utilising the waste heat of the condensing water, supposing the ether vapour to be eliminated, without the necessity of costly apparatus. But still attention should be directed to a system of perfecting the ordinary marine engine, rather than obtaining more favourable results, by the addition of the ether system to the present engine. A marine engine would, if the laws of heat and elasticity were to be believed, result in greater economy, with more safety, than was promised by the combined system. In such a case the consumption of fuel might be reduced even below 2lb. per i. h. p. per hour, as the result of ordinary working, not of a series of short experiments, the results obtained from which could rarely be received or recognised as facts. When this economy was accomplished, M. du Trembley's system could, if it was hereafter thought desirable, be adapted to existing arrangements.—At a recent meeting Mr. Denison, Q.C., exhibited a small crab, or winch, capable of lifting half a ton with a single pulley, although light enough to be carried in one hand. It had two short barrels with five grooves in them for the rope, and a wheel at the end of each barrel, both of which were driven by equal pinions on the winding arbor. The rope passed from one barrel to the other; and the loose end was either pulled off by hand, or fell by its own weight, or by the weight of the descending blocks, or empty bucket attached to it, if the crab was worked alternately, like buckets in a well. This avoided the loss of power and increased strain on the wheels, from the accumulation of rope on the barrel, when worked in the common way, and the loss of time in fetching, or passing the four or five coils of rope back from one end of the barrel to the other (which required special apparatus for it), and brought the whole machine into a smaller compass, with less weight than a common crab of the same power, because thinner and smaller wheels could be used, on account of the strain upon them being always uniform, in lifting any given weight, and because the barrels need not be longer than five times the thickness of the rope. It was stated that the machine had been invented long ago, and was now in use in many factories; but that it was surprising that so valuable an improvement of such a clumsy machine as the common long-barrelled crab should be comparatively unknown.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—A very full meeting of this society was held on Monday evening at Burlington House, Sir Roderick I. Murchison,

president, in the chair, to hear a paper read by Mr. Atkinson, the Siberian traveller, and the author of a magnificent work on Asiatic Russia. The paper was entitled, "Journey through the highest Passes in the Ala-tu and Ac-tu Mountains in Chinese Tartary." Mr. Atkinson gave many interesting descriptions of scenery which he had viewed in the countries through which he had travelled; but, although his observations were fully illustrated by maps and drawings executed by himself, the paper only confirmed the experience of those who have ascertained that the mere description of scenery and adventures, however fascinating in a book, possesses few charms for an audience like this. Mr. Atkinson was, however, listened to attentively and respectfully throughout, and was warmly cheered at the end. The author mentions that during his wanderings in Central Asia he came upon several large river-beds, in some of which there was no water; in others the streams were so small that it was difficult to account for the formation of them. The sublime passes in these mountains he attributes to a terrible earthquake at some distant period, which rent the mountains asunder, letting out the waters of a large alpine lake, which has formed some of those vast channels across the plain.—After this a despatch from Captain Henry Strachey, Gold Medalist R.G.S., respecting the measures taken by the Indian Government to ascertain the fate of M. Adolphe Schlagintweit, communicated by the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, was read by the secretary. Adolphe Schlagintweit crossed the Para-Lassa Pass from India to Tibet on the 31st of May, 1857. The last documentary evidence consists of his letter to Harkishu from Chang-Chenmo of Ladak, dated the 14th of June, with a postscript stating that it was not sent till the 24th of June, and one or two notes for sundry payments of the latter date. These documents were brought from Ladak by the Chupraissies who joined Harkishu at Khardong of Garzha on the 20th of July, from whose statements it appears that before they left the Moonshee, Mohamed Hasan, had deserted, taking the ponies, some money, and other articles belonging to M. Schlagintweit, but was overtaken, and the property recovered. Harkishu gathered from Captain Montgomerie, F.R.G.S., of the Trigonometrical Survey, and his native doctor, that they were in Ladak during the summer when he had left. From the locality of his last despatch, Chang-Chenmo, it is inferred that he crossed the Turkish water-parting to the east of the Kara Korum Pass, perhaps to Sugat on the head of the Kara Kash, and thence followed the route taken by his brothers the previous year towards Kiliam and Khoten. It seems that he had laid in a stock of merchandise to facilitate his journey by trading. From another source, the Bholiyas of Jwar, the information serves to show that he had reached the margin of an inhabited country at the foot of the mountains; left camp to reconnoitre, and, in his absence, the guide absconded with most of the baggage and cattle towards Yarkend. Being thus left helpless, M. Schlagintweit sent to the Yanadar of Le for assistance in men, cattle, provisions, &c., whether for the purpose of penetrating into Turkistan, or returning to Ladak, remains undetermined. The next accounts are derived from merchant travellers from Ladak, from whom it appears that he had passed the winter of 1857-8 on the border of Khoten, and that on his arrival the provinces of Kashghur and Yarkend were in a disturbed state from one of the periodical invasions of the Turks. It is unlikely that he would remain more than one winter here, or that if still in the locality he would not have opened communication with Ladak and India; probably, therefore, he took the opportunity of the temporary subversion of Chinese authority to enter Khoten or Yarkend. To go far or remain there, he could hardly avoid the notice of the insurgent Turks, who, though contrary to their natural impulse, might, in the actual conjuncture, welcome him as an enemy to the Chinese, and the love of travel and enterprise might prompt M. Schlagintweit to offer himself in that capacity. In either case, when the Chinese got the upper hand, they would first regain possession of their southern frontier towards Ladak, and he would probably retire with the invading Turks through Kashghur into Khokand, with which our relations have been very slight, although wholly amicable, and on the strength of them, he might meet a friendly reception there; on the other hand, the Khokandis are on bad terms with all their neighbours, including the Russians, who are steadily encroaching on their north-western frontier, and this would add to his difficulties in leaving their country again. The ways out of Khokand are E. to Ali and S.E. to Kashghur, both completely stopped by the Chinese; S. to Badakshan and Cabul, but physically and politically most difficult; S.W. to Samarkand and Bukhara, and W. to Khiva, both probably hostile to Khokand, and certainly so to the British. A European, and especially an English traveller, would find safety there only from Russian protection. Lastly, to the Russian outposts on the N.W. and North Fort Aralisk, near the Araland Ak-majed on the Sir (Jaxartes), where most probably he has proceeded, as he would then be in the civilised world again. It would be futile to discuss the chances of his ultimate escape, hanging, as they do, on the caprices of the vilest barbarians of Central Asia.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.—On Tuesday a lecture was delivered in the theatre of the United Service Institution, Major-General S. Stanhope in the chair, by J. Macintosh, Esq., on the use of combustible materials in the new strategies of war. In order to explain his remarks, he classed them under five heads: 1st. Facilitating attacks by ships of war against sea-face fortifications. 2nd. Facilitating attack upon earthworks. 3rd. The inefficiency of the ordinary shell and fusee as used during the last Russian war. 4th. The destructive powers of incendiary shells when used against shipping, &c. 5th. Method of preventing troops, &c., from crossing rivers. Mr. Macintosh then went on to say that he would propose to aid our navy in attacking strong sea-forts, by attaching an incendiary naval steam brigade, consisting of small and inexpensive steamers, having suitable iron compartments filled with his combustible compound, composed of prepared coal, tar, and naphtha, which can be easily obtained in any quantities, and at a trifling cost. These vessels would be sent in, wind and tide favouring, with a time-fusee ignited leading to a bursting charge. On exploding the bursting charge the inflammable fluid would be scattered on the surface of the water, causing the immediate ignition of the naphtha, and producing a dense black suffocating smoke, which, driven by the wind against the sea face, enters the embrasures, and either suffocates or drives away the enemy's gunners, leaving the forts in our possession. Another plan was to discharge a sufficient quantity of the naphtha upon the surface of the water to windward of the fortress, and ignite it by means of a shell or rocket containing naphtha and potassium: by the great affinity of the latter for oxygen, the floating liquid, which cannot mix with the water, will be immediately inflamed. The lecturer then proceeded to explain his method of driving the enemy from their earthworks and rendering them untenable, by firing into them diaphragm shells filled with his compound, and containing a bursting charge. The naphtha from the bursting shells saturates the earth, and continues to burn with a dense smoke. There was also another kind of shell explained for use against troops, the shower of inflammable material from which sets fire to anything combustible with which it comes in contact. It would be of great use in disorganising masses of infantry or cavalry. A third kind of shell with a bursting charge was described, containing naphtha, with a few pills of potassium, which, in the bursting of the shell, ignite the naphtha. These would be useful for marine purposes for firing into harbours amongst shipping, stores, &c. Mr. Macintosh concluded his lecture by explaining the use of his invention in the destroying of pontoon bridges, rafts, &c.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—At the meeting held on Wednesday, the Very Rev. H. H. Milman, Dean of St. Paul's, in the chair, Professor Westmacott, R.A., F.R.S., read a very interesting paper "On Polychromy in Sculpture, or Colouring Statues." Mr. Westmacott said that the introduction of the painting of statues could only be recommended upon the principle that it would improve sculpture. When, therefore, it was professed that persons were not satisfied to see sculpture practised in its simple speciality as an art dealing with form only, it might be assumed that they thought it deficient in some quality wanting to its perfection, and that they supposed they could supply the want by calling in the aid of another art. The advocates of the practice of colouring sculpture appeared to be either unwilling or unable to give any art-reasons for its adoption. They contented themselves by saying it was practised by ancient sculptors; and they were desirous of founding the modern practice upon precedent. Admitting the authority of antiquity for polychromy, it might still be questioned whether painting statues had been practised by any of the great masters of sculpture. The legitimate province of sculpture was form. What was not represented by form did not come under the true definition of sculpture. When sculpture was painted, it was a mixture of two arts; as a picture relieved or raised became a mixture of two arts. In the very few instances in which colour had been found on ancient sculpture there was no attempt at gradation. Examples were met with of statues both in marble and bronze having the eyes of glass, paste, or metal; but it was difficult to account for such a strange caprice and perversion of taste. One thing, however, was obvious, that no resemblance to nature had been intended by the practice. The colouring of sculpture was therefore not desirable on the ground of exact imitation; and the Greek sculptors, whose authority was quoted in favour of polychromy in sculpture, never had that object in view. The period when sculpture attained its highest perfection was when Myron and Phidias lived. The poetical imaginings of certain writers and connoisseurs sometimes unfairly influenced persons to adopt as established usages of the ancients, practices which were only exceptional. The accounts which were given of metals having been employed by ancient sculptors to impart paleness and other expressions were unworthy of credit. But, if painting had been employed in ancient sculpture, what would have become of it after the lapse of ages? Surely Theseus and Ilyssus, the Venus of Milo, the Apollo of the Belvedere, showed no deficiency that colour could supply? Nor did they

regret that the Moses of Michael Angelo, the Christ of Thorwaldsen, the Hercules and Lycas, the statues of the Pope by Canova, or the Michael and Satan of Flaxman, were without the embellishment of colouring. If a male statue were presented in flesh tints, with the hair painted and the eyes coloured, it would not for a moment be tolerated. The objection felt at present to the exhibiting of the naked human figure would have tenfold force under such circumstances. A long discussion followed the reading of this excellent paper, in the course of which Mr. J. Bell, the sculptor, gave in his adhesion to the doctrines put forward by Professor Westmacott; and Professor Donaldson, Mr. Crace, and some others concurred in opposing the lecturer.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—On Feb. 17, Dr. Allen Miller, V.P., in the chair, Dr. Gilbert read a paper "On the Composition of the Animal Portion of our Food, and on its Relations to Bread." The general conclusions were, that only a small proportion of the increase of a fattening animal was composed of nitrogenous matter; that from 5 to 10 per cent. only of the nitrogenous matter of the food was stored up in the body of the animal; but that the amount of fat stored up was frequently greater than the amount supplied in the food, despite the loss incurred in the maintenance of the respiratory function. Hence the comparative values of fattening foods were proportional rather to the amounts of respiratory than of assumed flesh-forming constituents. It was calculated that in those portions of the carcasses of oxen actually consumed as human food, the amount of dry fat was from two to three times as great as the amount of dry nitrogenous matter; and in the eaten portions of the carcasses of sheep and pigs, more than four times as great. By substituting for the above proportions of fat their respiratory equivalents in starch, so as to allow of a comparison between meat and bread, the ratios became 6 or 7 to 1 and 11 to 1 respectively. From the independent determinations of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, Dr. F. Watson, and Dr. Odling, it appeared that in wheat-bread the ratio of starch to nitrogenous matter was as 6 or 7 to 1, so that in bread the proportion of assumed flesh-forming constituents to respiratory constituents was greater than in the eaten portions of sheep and pigs, and quite equal to that of the eaten portions of oxen: a conclusion altogether opposed to the prevalent notions on the subject.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS.

GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION.—This new association has taken rooms at No. 5, Cavendish-square, which will be open to the members every Monday evening, at seven o'clock. The meeting for reading papers is the second Monday in each month. For the next meeting there are thirty candidates for election.

A DEPUTATION on the subject of the repeal of the stamp duty on the diploma of a fellow, and on the licence to practise physic granted by the Royal College of Physicians of London, have had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, at his official residence in Downing-street. The deputation consisted of Dr. Mayo (president of the college), Dr. Francis Hawkins, Dr. Alderson (treasurer), Dr. Sutherland (senior censor), Dr. Pitman (registrar), and Mr. Barrow, M.P.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.—A general meeting of the Royal Irish Academy was held on Monday evening, Rev. Dr. Todd, president, in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Graves, secretary, read a paper from Sir William R. Hamilton, LL.D., "On some Quaternary Equations connected with Fresnel's Wave Surface." The paper was referred to the council for publication. Dr. Graves then announced that the Royal Dublin Society had lent to the Irish Academy a collection of specimens of ancient Irish art, which had been deposited in their museum. The proceedings soon after terminated.

A PHENOMENON.—The Rev. Aaron Roberts, Curate of St. Peter's, Carmarthen, makes the following statement in a letter: "On Friday, the 11th of February, there fell at Mountain Ash, Glamorgan-shire, about 9 o'clock a.m., in and about the premises of Mr. Nixon, a heavy shower of rain and small fish. The largest size measured about four inches in length. It is supposed that two different species of fish descended; on this point, however, the public generally disagree. At this time it was blowing a very stiff gale from the south. Several of the fish are preserved in fresh water, five of which I have this day seen. They seem to thrive well. The tail and fins are of a bright white colour. Some persons attempting to preserve a few in salt and water, the effect is stated to have been almost instantaneous death. It was not observed at the time that any fish fell in any other part of the neighbourhood, save in the particular spot mentioned." Appended is a paragraph on the case taken out of the *Monmouthshire Merlin*: "SHOWER OF FISH.—Much excitement has been occasioned in the valley of Aberdare by the fact of a complete shower of fish falling at Mountain Ash on Friday last. The roofs of some houses were covered with them, and several were living, and are still preserved in life and apparent health in glass bottles. They were from an inch to three inches in length, and fell during a very heavy shower of rain and storm of wind."

THE ARMSTRONG GUN.—The *Mechanics' Magazine* gives a long and detailed account of the Armstrong gun, about which the Government authorities have attempted to preserve such secrecy. The secret being out, there can be no harm in repeating it. The new gun is formed of an internal steel tube, bound over with strips of rolled iron laid on spirally, the alternate strips being laid in opposite directions, so that the joints may cross each other, or, in other words, so as to "break joint." This system of construction is, of course, expensive, but it gives great strength with a very small quantity of metal. The internal steel tube is rifled in a very peculiar manner. It has a very large number of small grooves close to each other—no less than forty, we believe, in a gun of 2½ inches bore. The shot or shell Mr. Armstrong usually makes of cast-iron, of about three diameters in length, and covers it entirely over with thin lead, so that it may readily conform itself to the rifled interior of the bore when forced forward by the explosion of the charge. Provision for loading the gun at the breech is made by cutting a slot near the breech end down from the upper side into the bore of a sufficient length to admit the elongated projectile and the charge of powder, and of a breadth slightly greater than the diameter of the bore. The bore itself is also slightly enlarged where it opens into the space formed by cutting out the slot, in order that the projectile and powder, after being lowered into the slot, may be easily pressed forward by hand or other means into the bore. In order to close the space formed by the slot after the gun is charged, a moveable breech-piece is formed to fit into it, and is furnished with two handles, by means of which it may be lifted out and dropped into its place as required. This breech-piece has fitted to its front face a facet of copper, a portion of which projects slightly, so as to form a disc, which, when the breech-piece is forced a little forward, will enter the bore behind the charge, and by its expansion at the moment of explosion prevent all escape of gas. The slight forcing forward of the breech-piece is effected by means of a strong screw passing in through the extreme breech end of the gun, and pressing against the rear end of the breech-piece. This screw is turned by a hand lever. The fore end of the breech-piece is bored out at the centre, the bore extending through the copper disc, and into this bore is placed, at the time of loading, a small discharging cartridge. The "touch hole," or hole for the detonating plug, is formed in the breech-piece, passing down from its upper side into its bore; so that when the piece is to be discharged, the detonating cap or plug is struck, the small discharging cartridge is thereby fired, and its fire is instantaneously communicated to the main cartridge in the bore of the gun itself. With his shells Mr. Armstrong uses a percussion fusee of his invention, for causing the shell to burst on striking an object, in case the striking takes place before the time the fusee has operated. This percussion fusee has been already described in our pages, but may fitly be again referred to here. In a cylindrical case within the shell Mr. Armstrong fixes a weight, or striker, by means of a pin passing through it and the sides of the case. This pin is cut or broken by the shock which the projectile receives in the gun at the instant of firing, and the striker, being thus liberated, recedes to the rear end of the case, and there remains until the velocity of the shell is checked by coming into contact with some object. When this takes place the striker, not participating in the retardation of the shell, advances in the case, and causes a patch of detonating composition to be carried suddenly against a fixed point, which fires the composition and ignites the bursting charge in the shell.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday, March 7.—Royal Institution, 2. General Monthly Meeting.—Royal Institution of British Architects, 8.
Tuesday, 8.—Royal Institution, 3. Professor Owen, "On Fossil Mammals."—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8. Discussion upon Mr. Muller's paper, "On the Co-efficients of Elasticity and of Rupture in Wrought Iron," and, if time permits, "Account of Experiments upon Elliptical Cast-iron Arches," by Mr. T. F. Chapple, M.I.C.E.—Geologists' Association, 7, at St. Martin's Hall. Professor Tennant, F.G.S., will deliver a lecture "On Mineralogy applied to Geology."
Wednesday, 9.—Society of Arts, 8. Mr. William Hawes, "On Cape Colony, its Products and Resources."—Geological Society. Papers to be read: 1. "On the Veins of Tin Ore at Evjokok, Greenland," by J. Y. Taylor, Esq. 2. "On some Minerals from near Tabriz, Persia," by Hon. C. A. Murray. 3. "On the Permian Chitons of Durham," by J. W. Kirkby, Esq.
Thursday, 10.—Royal Institution, 3. Professor Tyndall, "On the Force of Gravity."
Friday, 11.—Royal Institution. Meeting at 8; Lecture at 9. W. Odling, M.B., "On Magnesium, Calcium, Lithium, and other congeners."—Royal Astronomical, 8.
Saturday, 12.—Royal Institution, 3. Dr. W. A. Muller, "On Organic Chemistry."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY.

At the last meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Mr. David Laing, of the Advocates' Library, brought forward an interesting fact in connection with Ben Jonson's visit to Scotland. In 1842 Mr. Laing edited for the Shakspeare Society an edition of "The Conversations between Ben Jonson and Drummond of Hawthornden," with a copious and curious introduction. Ben had set out from London on foot to visit Drummond, and the

new facts recently discovered by Mr. Laing relate to the honours done our great dramatist by the magistrates of Edinburgh. They admitted him a burgess, and gave him a banquet, as appears by the city treasurer's accounts. Thus, on the 25th September, 1618, the Dean of the Guild is directed "to mak Benjamin Jonsoun, Inglisman, burgis and guild brother in *communi forma*," and on the 26th of the following October the treasurer is ordered to pay James Ainslie, "late Bailie, twa hundreth twentie-anne pund, sex shillingis, four pennys; debursit be him upon the diner maid to Benjamin Jonstounne, conforme to the Act maid thairanent." The burgess ticket given to "rare Ben" was ornamented with unusual care, and a sum of 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* (Scotch) is charged for "writing and gilding it."—A paper of considerable interest was also read on the same evening by Captain Thomas, on the beehive-shaped houses in the Island of Harris, which preserve the most ancient form of aboriginal habitations in Britain. He remarked that they are generally to be found in the inland pasture-grounds of the island, and are still inhabited during the summer months. They greatly resemble the cloaghans of Ireland. One of those described is 18 feet in diameter on the outside, and 9 feet in height, the walls being 6 feet thick, and converging to the top in form of a dome till a single stone joins them. The doorway is about 3 feet high and 2 broad. The interior chamber is about 8 feet in diameter. In some of them are cells in the walls, still used as sleeping-places. Captain Thomas, who has examined very minutely the chambered cairns or "Picts' houses" in Orkney, was struck with the analogies of idea and arrangement between them and the circular houses of Harris, and has no doubt that they were the abodes of kindred people.

In the parish of Thurham, in Kent, in a field to the east of the castle, and on the line of the old Pilgrims' road towards Farningham ferry, an early cemetery was recently discovered by some labourers who were employed in removing the soil. A tumulus appears to have originally covered the spot, containing a series of human skeletons—placed with their heads to the centre—seven of which were exhumed. One of them had his feet just above the head of another, in what appeared to be another circle, and no doubt was the centre of three circles, the outer one probably the latest. Signs of cremation also appeared here, which may have been made at the time the Romans occupied the site, proofs of which have been given by the discovery of Roman urns, at a former period, adjoining the castle. The skull of a horse was drawn out from the south side, which had been buried, or rather sacrificed on its master's grave; a custom adverted to by the classic writers, and of which a remarkable instance was obtained in a discovery made about two years since at Faversham, where the enriched trappings of a noble war-horse were exhumed. No remains which would lead us to fix the date of this cemetery were discovered, but one of the skulls has been placed in the Maidstone Museum.

At the last meeting of the Chronological Institute, Dr. Bell, the Honorary Secretary, read a paper, in illustration of the famed Barberini inscription at Rome, which records the victory of Claudius in Britain, and which originally was placed on the triumphal arch which stood in the Corso until the year 1461. One half of the inscription only is old, the rest is conjectural, and to reconcile these conjectures with fact was Dr. Bell's paper written. It was illustrated by a large facsimile of the inscription, carefully noting the old and new portions, made from the original by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A.

It is not very often that modern antiquaries are constructed of so ponderous a kind as the old stone monuments of our aboriginal forefathers. But recently on the downs near Bath where the three counties of Gloucester, Somerset, and Wiltshire meet, an enormous cromlech has been raised to take the place of the old boundary stones. The huge blocks that form it weigh from four to five tons each, and the upright stones are twelve feet in height. It is a striking and appropriate mark, less unsightly than the old broken boundary stones, and quite in keeping with the spot.

We complete our notice of the sale of the Hertz Collection, which concluded last week. The fifteenth day's sale commenced with intaglios set as rings, the highest price realised being 3*l.* 14*s.* for the best. A very large series of intaglios representing animals of all kinds followed—one representing a crouching lion, above which MEROPS was inscribed, was sold to the British Museum for the small sum of 1*l.* 11*s.*, while another representing a lion devouring his prey (of much less interest) brought 4*l.* 10*s.* A sardonyx on which was engraved a ram's head, and which was published in "Impronte de Monumenti Gemme," probably because of that fact, sold for 10*l.* A few of the Pastes was sold at low prices to the British Museum. The cameos of the cinque-cento period sold well. A few fiddle vases closed the day's proceedings. Lot 2,945, a round black vase, remarkable for its flat form, but possessing no beauty, sold for 20*l.* 10*s.* An amphora, upon which was painted the birth of Minerva, fetched 20*l.* 10*s.* The Duke of Manchester purchased the last lot of the day's sale, an interesting amphora, with a representation of Theseus slaying the Minotaur, for the moderate sum of 6*l.* 10*s.* The

sixteenth and last day's sale commenced with intaglios, some few of which were fine, and represented various birds. The highest prices were reserved for the thirty-two very curious inscribed rings, which all sold well. One inscribed "I bring luck to him who wears this ring," and another "Good luck to you," were bought for the curious collection of Lord Londesborough, at the respective prices of 5*l.* and 6*l.* Several were purchased for the British Museum, and one, with the simple inscription "Be greeted, Fabiana," sold to Mr. Boocke for 10*l.* The Gnostic amulets and mystic gems were very curious and sold well. Of the fictile works we may only notice a fine tazza, 6 inches in diameter, upon which were painted eight figures, which sold for 21*l.*; and lot 3,124, a round vase, 12 inches high, with two handles, upon which was painted a bearded and winged figure between draped female figures, sold for 21*l.* The concluding lot of the sale (No. 3,137) realised the highest sum. It consisted of five bronze figures of Buddhist deities, brought by Major Edie from China, and believed to be unique of their kind. They were purchased for Mr. Christie for 225*l.* They attracted much attention at the Crystal Palace in 1851. Thus ended this, the most remarkable sale of this season, and one that has never been rivalled for the quantity and quality of the engraved gems it contained. The total produce of the sale was 10,011*l.* It was purchased of the late proprietor, Mr. Hertz, for the sum of 12,000*l.*; but it is understood that a few fine articles have been reserved by the present proprietor, who must, however, still lose a considerable sum upon the whole transaction.

An interesting discovery has recently been made in the Island of Cyprus, which carries the mind back to the old Crusaders. In the beginning of last December Ali Pasha, general of artillery, was charged by the Ottoman Government with visiting the various fortified places in the islands of Rhodes, Cyprus, and Cos, and while executing certain works at Nicosia he found among the ruins of some old fortifications a well-preserved funeral cavern, at the bottom of which was a stone with an inscription in Latin. Though somewhat defaced, this inscription was found to be to the following effect: "Here lies the body of John Peter Corsini, general of the army of the King of Cyprus, who died 5th March, 1388. He, by the King's orders, constructed the fortifications of Nicosia." Underneath this inscription is an outline of the fortifications referred to. The Prince alluded to is evidently Hugo IV., the eighth successor of Guy de Lusignan, first King of Cyprus.

LITERARY NEWS.

REFERRING to the statement which we published a fortnight ago respecting *Household Words*, the Bookseller says that "some idle rumours of a disruption in the personnel of the literary staff have been circulated, but we (the Bookseller) may take it upon ourselves to say that Mr. Dickens, Mr. Wills, to whom so much of the success of the work is due, and the large staff of talented contributors, are acting entirely in unison."

The Publishers' Circular falls into a strange mystification as to the signature of an article in the *Athenaeum*. The signature was W. M. T., which the Publishers' Circular, making a shrewd jump at a conclusion, interpreted to signify William Makepeace Thackeray. This was ingenious enough; but, unfortunately, the writer of the article happened to be Mr. William Moy Thomas, whose initials are precisely similar to those of the great Titmarsh.

We are happy to be able to state that Mr. John James Bennett, formerly assistant-keeper of the botanical department in the British Museum, has been promoted to the office of keeper, vacant through the decease of the late Dr. Robert Brown. No better choice could have been made by the Trustees: Mr. Bennett's well-earned reputation as a botanist having fully entitled him to this distinction.—Professor Owen, of the British Museum, has, we perceive, been appointed Fullerton Professor of Paleontology at the Royal Institution, and is now delivering an interesting course of twelve lectures at the Institution, in compliance with the terms of his appointment.

We are at length enabled to state, upon evidence of the highest authority, that the author of the celebrated "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation," first published in 1844, and which has since gone through several editions, was the late Dr. George Combe, who died about a year ago. The authorship of the "Vestiges," after having been attributed to various persons, as the late Lady King (Lord Byron's "Ada, sole daughter of my house and heart"), Dr. Carpenter, Lord Brougham, &c., was at length almost universally laid at the door of Mr. Robert Chambers, who, however, had nothing to do with it further than that he may have looked over some of the proof-sheets; in which case Mr. Page's assertion, that he was requested by Mr. Robert Chambers to correct the proof-sheets, becomes intelligible.

The intelligence which we published three weeks ago respecting the contemplated changes in *Household Words* has been confirmed by the assent of the *Illustrated London News* (likely to be a well-informed quarter), with the addition that Messrs. Chapman and Hall are to be the publishers of the new publica-

tion. Mr. Dickens, therefore, will return to his old publishers once more.

Lord Stanhope delivered a lecture on Geographical Science to the members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution on Tuesday evening last.

On Tuesday the students of Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, elected the Earl of Airlie their Lord Rector for the year.

On Wednesday night, the quarterly meeting of the members of the London Mechanics' Institution was held in the theatre of the institution, Southampton-buildings, Holborn; W. L. Birkbeck, Esq., president, in the chair. The report submitted to the meeting was of the most gratifying nature, as it not only stated that the downward course of the institution was arrested, but that it was progressing in improvement, and, above all, that the efforts to raise the sum of 1,500*l.* for the purchase of the lease of the premises had been successful. It appears to be now the intention to go on and raise the sum of 3,500*l.*, in order to clear off the debt of the institution. It was moved and unanimously carried—"That the thanks of the members of the institution are due to the donors who had so munificently contributed towards the fund now being raised for the purpose of purchasing these premises." Thanks were also voted for the advocacy and support received from the press.

Notes and Queries says: "Perhaps it is not generally known that the story of Bethgeleit is found in Persian literature, from which it has been translated into Hindustani. The hero of the tale in the East is a mongoose instead of a greyhound.—[But the hero of the Welsh story is a deerhound, not a greyhound.]

On Tuesday afternoon an influential meeting of the inhabitants of Bath was held at the Guildhall in that city to receive a report from the committee for the past year, Bath having been one of the centres of examination under the new Oxford statute. The report was read by one of the honorary secretaries; it gave a satisfactory statement of the results of the last examination. In reference to the examinations generally, it stated that "a much larger proportion of the candidates from the west of England were successful than those from any other district." As the expenses last year were greater than the subscriptions, it was proposed in future to charge a fee to each candidate. The first resolution was proposed by J. Murch, Esq., as follows: "That this meeting, in adopting the report, desires to express its satisfaction at the success which has attended the first examination held in this city under the new Oxford statute, and the hope that the beneficial results which they anticipate from it, more especially in the improved tone and standard of education in the schools of this and the adjoining districts, may be fully realised." The resolution was carried unanimously.

It is stated that the unfinished work of the late Mr. Prescott is to be carried to a conclusion by his secretary, John Foster Kirk, Esq.

Messrs. Longman state that an edition of "Moore's Irish Melodies," with music, now being offered to the trade by Mr. Duffy, at the retail price of 12*s.* 6*d.*, is an incomplete edition. No complete edition can be published by any one except Messrs. Longman and Co. and Messrs. Addison and Co., the copyright of nearly one-half of the "Irish Melodies" being still unexpired. The edition now in course of publication by Longman and Co. and Addison and Co. will be completed in the course of March, and will be published at the retail price of not exceeding 12*s.* 6*d.* This is the only copyright and complete edition, and any infringement of the rights of the proprietors will be stopped by legal proceedings.

The Bookseller, among other items of intelligence, announces the retirement from business of Mr. Doring, bookseller, at Epsom, whose "c'rect cards" are so well known to all frequenters of our "Isthmian Games."

The same useful publication warns the trade against some swindlers in Manchester who have been victimising London booksellers. The plan adopted is to give a small order for books, which is paid; but the next one, generally for a much greater amount, is not paid for. This trick is so stale, that we should scarcely have expected to find that anybody had been taken in by it.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall will shortly publish a volume of sketches by Mr. Sala, collected from the pages of *Household Words*, and reprinted with the consent of Mr. Dickens.

The annual meeting of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution was held on Monday evening in the lecture-hall of the new building, David-street, Oliver Heywood, Esq., the president, in the chair. The report, which was read by the secretary, proves that the affairs of the institution are as prosperous as its warmest friends can desire. In the day classes there are 241 girls and 228 boys, and out of 14 boys who submitted themselves for examination to the Oxford board of examiners, 2 received certificates. The number of members attending the evening classes is 1,047, and at the Society of Arts examination 10 of the pupils carried off 19 certificates of merit. The library is also flourishing; 35,754 volumes have been circulated in the year. The income of the year amounted to 4,572*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, and a balance of 944*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.* is in hand.

A meeting of the stewards of the Glasgow celebration of the Burns Centenary Festival was held at the

Fine Art Gallery in that city on Wednesday, the 23rd ult. Upon the accounts being gone into it was found that there was a deficiency of nearly 50*l.*, which was attributed in great measure to the fact that the expenses of decorating the city hall had quadrupled the estimate of the decorator. A very generous offer on the part of C. R. Brown, Esq., the secretary, to defray the sum himself was, unanimously, but gratefully, rejected, the impression being that Mr. Brown deserved to receive a substantial testimonial in acknowledgment of the admirable manner in which he conducted everything, rather than to suffer loss. A committee was accordingly appointed by the general body of the stewards for the purpose of considering the best mode of paying the deficit, and of acknowledging Mr. Brown's services in a proper manner.

An American paper records that a feat, recently performed by a paper manufacturer and a publishing house in Philadelphia, is worthy of record. Miss Bremer's latest work has just been reproduced there, and the whole book was set up and stereotyped—three tons of paper being made for it, each sheet of paper measuring 31 by 41 inches—printed, bound, and exposed for sale in less than forty-eight hours from the time when the advanced sheets were placed in the publisher's hands. This, after all, is not so very extraordinary; when we remember that "Miss Bremer's latest work" is a one-volume novel, and that Messrs. Levy, an English firm of printers, once performed the feat of setting up three volumes for Mr. Bentley in less than forty-eight hours.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRITIC.

SIR,—I have read with great pleasure in a late number of your valuable publication, the account of the formation of a Geological Survey Association. The abstract of Mr. Hyde Clarke's address published in your number of the 12th ult., and explaining the various objects of the society, is most interesting. I have long thought that local associations, spiritedly and perseveringly carried out, for the continuous collection of every particular relating to the nature and phenomena of the earth's crust, must, even in a very few years, necessarily gather together a surprising amount of interesting and valuable facts. No doubt it will be one part of the objects of the Association to lay before the public at suitable times and in a convenient manner the results of their researches. I am induced to beg a place for these brief remarks in your next number—from the circumstance of my having a few months ago commenced a geological survey of Jersey of which I have completed perhaps one-sixth or one-seventh part. My ideas at present do not extend beyond the survey, and possibly the publication thereof; but even that is a tolerable amount of work to undertake single-handed, as the island contains from fifty to sixty square miles. As to personal motives I have only two: first, air and exercise; and second, a wish to add what I can (however little that may be) to scientific knowledge. So far as I can learn there exists no geological survey of the Isle of Jersey, except one of a very general character.

I rejoice that so many as 170 members have been elected since November. If I had been resident in England I should certainly have sought to be admitted into this valuable association. As it is I beg leave to assure Mr. Clark and his friends, if this should meet their eyes, of my hearty good wishes. May they "go on and prosper."—I am, Sir, yours, &c., Jersey, Feb. 25, 1859. A CONSTANT READER.

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